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LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA

NEWS CLIPPINGS

1960 – 1966

IN DWARFISM VICTIMS

1960's

Pituitary Extract Inspires Growth

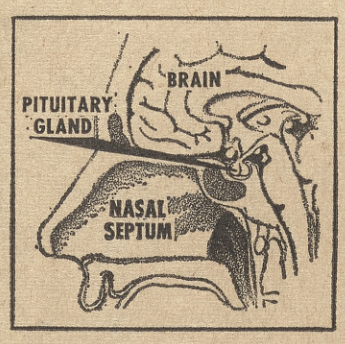
By LEWIS COPE
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Billy, age 7, has grown three-quarters of an inch in six weeks.

What makes this so unusual?

First, Billy had hardly grown for several years.

Second, the thing that made Billy grow was a hormone which necessarily had to be extracted from the pituitary glands of dead humans—a practice which recently stirred a controversy in Minneapolis.



The controversy arose when it was disclosed that the glands were being removed from corpses at Hennepin County Morgue without first obtaining permission of surviving families. The glands were being sold to a medical research agency in Baltimore, Md.

The legality of removing the glands may be considered by the Hennepin County Grand Jury Dec. 13 if an audit of the medical examiner's books is completed by that time.

Dr. Henry Sauls of the University of Minnesota Medical School called the youngster's growth very encouraging. Billy (that's not his real name) will continue to get human growth hormone (HGH) injections until his therapy program is completed.

"Others will be treated" at the university in the same way, Sauls said. He expects to put another youngster on this therapy in December, with several more expected to follow soon.

Billy's coatsleeves already look short on him, Sauls said. The boy was 38½ inches tall before HGH shots started; 50 inches would be normal for him.

And several youngsters are being treated with HGH at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., with more due to start soon.

In all, more than 300 "Billys" and "Janes" across the country are benefiting from HGH shots.

Doctors know that HGH can greatly help some children who suffer from dwarfism. The children getting HGH are not only getting extra inches for their short bodies, however. They also are helping researchers find out such things as the best dosages, the length of treatment needed, what supplementary hormones can help, and exactly which children can best benefit from HGH.

Doctors working with HGH made these key points:

Only a fraction of the youngsters suffering from

Glands
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Glands

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dwarfism can be helped with HGH injections. There are many other causes of stunted growth. But in cases which HGH can help, the growth is often spectacular (several inches in a year).

HGH is one of only a very few hormones that doctors use which must be obtained from humans. Most hormones can be obtained from animals and used with good results, or can be made synthetically in the laboratory.

The tiny pituitary gland is located at the base of the brain. The only way the hormone can be obtained is through autopsy. The HGH being used in this country comes through the National Pituitary Agency, Baltimore, Md., which collects pituitary glands taken out during autopsies and then extracts the HGH. The agency is affiliated with the federal National Institutes of Health.

The supply of HGH is limited. Thus the number that can receive shots must be measured in hundreds, while thousands could benefit. Chosen are youngsters who hold the greatest promise of benefiting from injections and providing new knowledge in this field. (It takes more than 100 pituitary glands to provide enough HGH for a year's treatment.)

The National Pituitary Agency makes all HGH available free to the patients. The agency is the only source of HGH—"you can't buy it at any price," Sauls said. No commercial firm is involved.

Research is a major aim in the use of HGH shots. For this reason, doctors say, the program is important despite the limited number of youngsters who can get shots.

If animal growth hormone worked in humans, there would be no problem. Every case of hormone-deficient dwarfism could be treated. Unfortunately, growth hormone is specific for each species.

Growth hormone from nonhuman primates has a slight effect on humans—but "not enough to make it worthwhile to administer," according to the university's Dr. John Dossett. He and Sauls are in the Pediatrics Department.

Then there is the hope of making this hormone in the lab. Only this year, the structure of HGH was determined. But that's a long way from synthetically making HGH—which turns out to be a very large molecule.

"Perhaps within five years" HGH can be made in the lab, Sauls said.

(The fact that HGH must be obtained from human autopsies has caused the stir in Minneapolis. The county medical examiner's office had been sending glands to the National Pituitary Agency. But this practice has been suspended, after questions were raised about survivors' authorization and the financial arrangement.)

Who are the youngsters that HGH shots can help?

"There are a large number of causes of slow growth," Sauls said. "Many are born small and will remain so. Many are born small and will catch up."

Some are born with normal length but later (usually between six months and three years) show stunted growth. Some—although by no means all—of this group can be helped with HGH.

Sauls said he did not like to use the terms midgets and dwarfs for these people. But he said these were the terms normally used by the public for growth deficiencies of the extent he was speaking of.

None of the youngsters will reach 5 feet in height—unless they get HGH shots. (There is no exact dwarfism height figure, since the person's sex and family height average must be considered.) Persons suffering from dwarfism caused by HGH-deficiency are likely at age 10 to have the height of a 5 or 6-year-old.

Hereditary shortness, heart defects, brain defects, kidney trouble and other factors can cause stunted growth—just as can the lack of HGH in the body.

HGH is one of several important hormones normally made in the half-inch-diameter pituitary gland, which is sometimes called the body's master gland. Most youngsters get enough HGH from their pituitary glands. But some don't. That is when HGH shots can be used.

The injections must come before about age 15. This is when bone growth is normally completed. HGH is normally produced throughout life, however.

Because of the short supply of HGH, the university doctors explained, every precaution is taken to make sure none will be wasted.

To get HGH it is first necessary to show that the youngster can benefit.

A detailed medical examination is made. This is to make as certain as possible that some other medical cause is not responsible for the dwarfing. Also, family histories are checked for hereditary shortness.

Then, and only then, a blood test is made if it still is suspected that HGH deficiency is the cause. This detection test is tricky and is only a recent development.

(Before this blood test, the use of HGH was fairly much on a trial and error basis. Sometimes HGH worked spectacularly; in other cases it brought no growth at all.)

Even after HGH deficiency is established, it does not necessarily mean the youngster will get the hormone needed for shots. Since there is not enough for all, questions must be asked. How old is the youngster? Are there other medical problems? How short is he or she? What are the chances of helping this particular person, and how much?

The decisions are tough. Much of the HGH sent to doctors goes through a three-member board which passes on individual applications. Other HGH, for particular reasons, goes directly from the National Pituitary Agency.

Only tiny amounts are needed for each shot. But because of the short supply, HGH is considered very valuable—Sauls referred to it as "pure gold."

Normally, three shots a week are administered (sometimes in the home), the university doctors explained. But this may differ from person to person, for both medical and research reasons.

The youngsters who have HGH deficiency are not mentally retarded (although their small size may cause emotional problems) and have no medical problems other than their small size.

The use of human material to aid others is not unusual. It is done every day with blood. And transplants of organs, eye material and bone material are now made.

Sauls said that traditionally the pituitary has been removed during autopsies. He said the purpose of this is to make tissue examination—as is done with tissues from other parts of the body. But he said now the pitu-[illegible]s can be put to excellent use by being sent to the [illegible]nal Pituitary Agency for removal of the very small [illegible]nt of HGH each contains.

[illegible]hen HGH can be put to use to add inches to young-[illegible] otherwise destined to remain midgets. And future [illegible]s of dwarfism may be helped by the knowledge [illegible]ed.

IT WAS A SMALL WEDDING when **Gladys Youngberg,** 18, and **Neil Chervenax,** 24, were married on television station KLAS in Las Vegas, Nev. Gladys, from Calgary, Alta., Canada, is 3 feet 6; Chervenax, from Detroit, is 3 feet 1.

ACTRESS LIZ TAYLOR said she will put up one of her famous paintings, a Frans Hals portrait, for auction in London on June 14. Another film star with a pair of famous paintings in the show will be former ice skater **Sonja Henie. . . . Bernard Wolf,** who is six feet tall, married **Helen Magdelaine Pekar,** who is three feet tall. A night club singer known as "Tiny Dollita," the new Mrs. Wolf was under managership of Wolf before the merriage.

ADLAI STEVENSON, U.N. ambassador, was named Father of the Year in New York. He said the American father has come upon sorry times. "He is the butt of the comic strips; he is the boob

King-Sized Dwarf Plans 'Giant' Parley

The little people are coming to town today for a three-day convention, and one of the biggest little people you'll ever meet is here to greet them.

Bob Hinkson, all 3-foot-7 of him, treasurer and one of the founders of the Little People of America, has everything set at the Hotel Washington.

"Our motto is 'think big'," he said. "We organized about five years ago to discuss the problems faced by midgets and dwarfs and to encourage friendship among us."

"I'm free, fat and 40," said Hinkson, a native of Takoma Park, Md., and an accountant at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"If I gain any more weight," he said, "People won't know whether I'm walking or rolling. I'm now up to 106."

Hinkson, at Walter Reed for 19 years, was a circus clown one year. "I couldn't see any future in it," he said. "It was like a paid vacation, but this fat boy wanted to gather some moss."

And he has, including a home he built in Ellicott City, Md., and a compact car outfitted with special control extensions and a built-up seat.

"I've got extensions everywhere but the back seat," he said. "When I sit in this car I'm as big as you are, whoever you are. It's the ultimate equalizer."

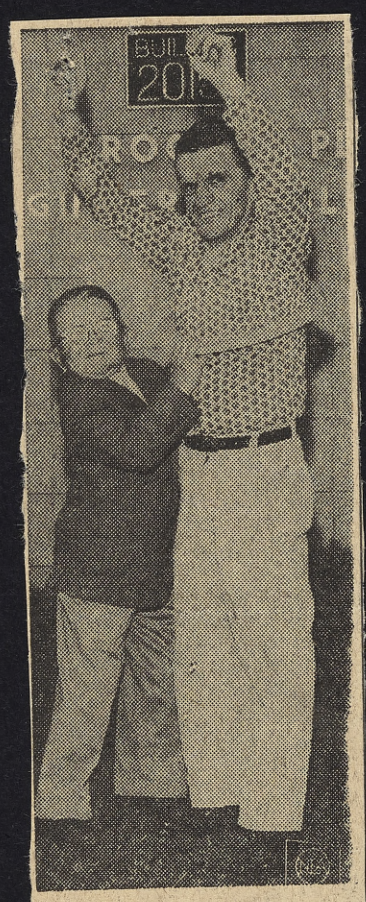
There are a lot of little people, Hinkson said, between 2500 and 4000 in the United States.

And they have a lot of big and little problems — jobs, clothes, friendships, overprotection by their families, constant jibes at their size, both good-humored and otherwise.

"Almost everything I wear is tailor-made," said Hinkson. "I wear a 2½ size shoe."

And his non-profit job as treasurer is a labor of love.

"It's a lot of work," he said, "but when I see those little people all having fun together this weekend, I'll be repaid a hundred times."



LITTLE CLEANERS— Kurt Schneider, 58 years old and 3½ feet tall, passes a 10-inch wooden hoop around Alfred Mills' chest in Sacremento, Calif. Mills, 38, is a truck driver. The U.S. Employment Service located the men for the specific job of cleaning the inside of solid rocket engine chambers. A qualification was passing hoop test.

The Washington Post
City Life
in Greater Washington

Friday, July 21, 1961 C3

By Bob Burchette, Staff Photographer

Bob Hinkson, of Ellicott City, Md., one of the Little People, stretches to put a coin in a parking meter in Silver Spring. Hinkson is an accountant at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

September 18, 1961

LITTLE PEOPLE: Miss Virginia Cowardin of Albuquerque and Billy Barty (center), talk about the Little People of America organization with Jimmy Wakely, singing master of ceremonies at the New Mexico State Fair. Mr. Barty, an actor, helped organize the organization for midgets and dwarfs. (FarWest photo)

Friday, October 13, 1961 ★★

"Circus Midgets," a photograph made in 1957, is one of the pictures included in the Dallas Museum for Contemporary Arts display of the work of Alfred Eisenstaedt. The exhibit, through Nov. 12, is a collection of 86 photographs sampling the career of the dean of Life Magazine cameramen.

—Dallas News Staff Photo.

Mickie Brooks, Garland, stands by the rig he has used to win five races and to place in four other events this year. He used it to set two national records. Brooks is rated among the state's top amateur drivers, and would like to turn pro.

SPORTS AFLOAT

Local Boat Racer Holds 2 Records

In a land noted for big, tall men, Mickie Brooks, Garland boat racer, stands only slightly over four feet. But among race drivers he stands mighty tall. This year, his second in the amateur racing circuit, Brooks has competed in nine races. He won five of them, placed second in one and third in three.

In addition he has set two national amateur records, one on a straight away run, and the other for a closed course.

This quiet, soft-spoken 32-year-old Texan, whose sharp wit and ready grin makes him one of the most popular drivers in the North Texas Amateur Boat Racing Association, would fool anyone who judges people by physical appearances. At the wheel of a roaring, leaping speed boat, fighting for an opening in a massed group of other boats, Mickie Brooks becomes another person.

He knows his business well, and his shrewd, aggressive driving makes him the man to beat in every race he enters.

Brooks modestly gives all credit to his 14-foot boat, a Flicker 60 built of regina wood covered with fiber glass and powdered by a Mercury 35A motor. The craft, which he has used in all races this year, is built by a couple of Garland men, L. A. Johnston and Gene Hartsfield, who operate, part-time, the Hydroplane Boat Co., Inc.

"It is one of the toughest, best-built boats I've ever seen," Brooks said, "and it is exceptionally stable. The only time I've flipped it was when I hit a submerged stump at San Antonio."

Brooks graduated from the N. R. Crozier Technical High School here in Dallas where he studied to be a draftsman. He works at this profession with Continental Electronics.

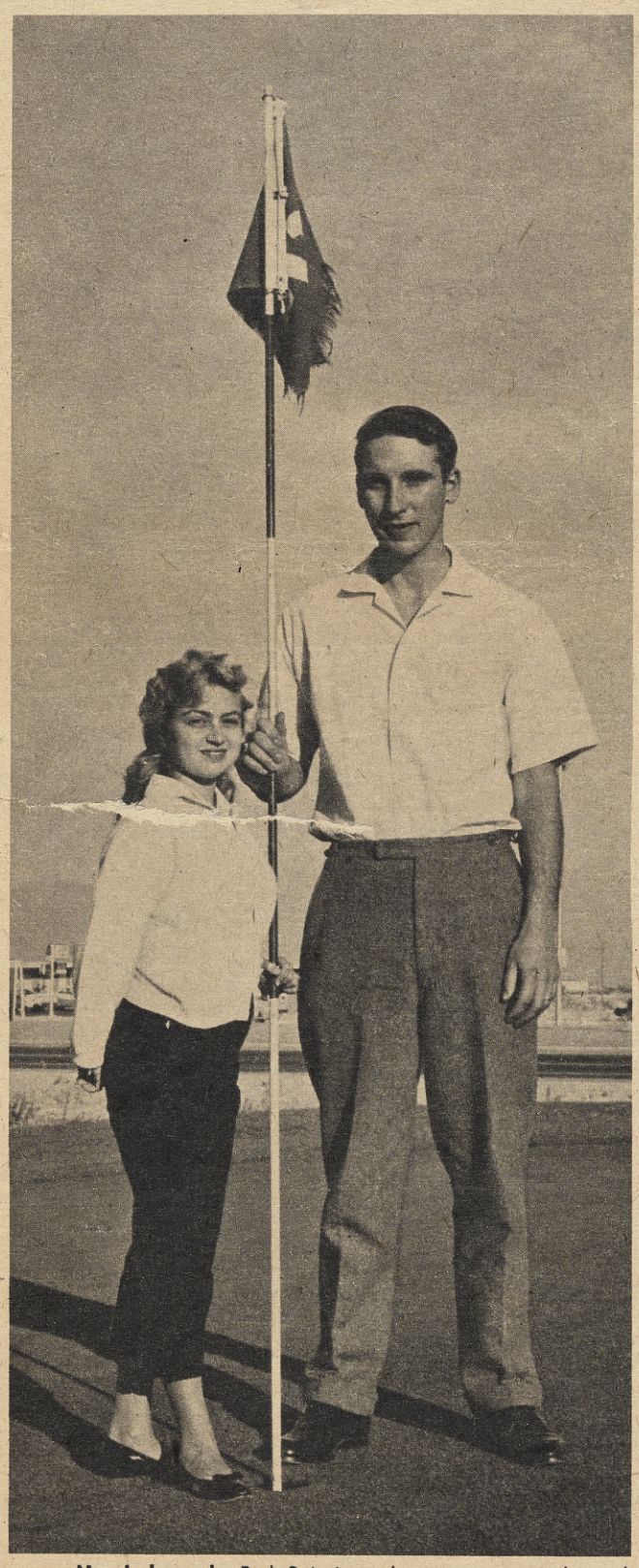
The hard-driving racer has numerous other hobbies, including hunting, fishing, water skiing and bowling. He is also an amateur radio operator and owns his own station. But when he married his boyhood sweetheart, the former Verdenia Ellis, one of his hobbies had to go. That was automobile racing.

"I dont know just how she swung it," Brooks grinned, "but the first thing I knew I had dropped the sport cold."

Mickie would like to turn professional. "I would if I had a sponsor," he said, but meanwhile, he is competing in every race within his cruising radius. "I don't find my size (he weighs only 90 pounds) to be a handicap at all. On the contrary, I think there are many advantages in it."

1961

THE WORLD OF LITTLE PEOPLE



Married couple: Ruth Spiering, whose parents are also midgets, poses with husband Dick, who stands 5 feet 10. About 50 per cent of midgets in U.S. marry persons of normal height.

by LLOYD SHEARER

LAS VEGAS, NEV.

HAVE YOU EVER in your wildest dreams imagined yourself a midget?

Suppose you were only 3 or 4 feet tall, what sort of tiptoe life might you lead in this out-sized world of ours?

How would you drive a car? How would you reach the phone in a telephone booth? Where would you find adult clothes to fit you? How could you reach a counter in a cafeteria, a ticket booth in a theatre, a newsstand on the street corner?

A few weeks ago approximately 200 midgets and dwarfs gathered here at the annual convention of their association, The Little People of America.

They came together to inspire and encourage each other and to acquaint the public with their special problems.

According to the little people themselves, there are about 3,000 midgets and dwarfs in North America.

To them, a midget is a correctly-proportioned miniature copy of a man or woman of normal height. Most midgets vary between 3 and 4 feet in height.

Dwarf is a term applied by midgets to misshapen little men and women who are not correctly proportioned, although science groups all adults under the height of 4 feet 11 as dwarfs.

Midgets dislike being classified as dwarfs. At this convention they appointed a special "dictionary committee" to contact dictionary publishers throughout the world. They want the publishers to offer a more accurate definition of the word "midget." Most dictionaries now define a midget as "a very small person —see 'dwarf'."

What bothers most little people, both midgets and dwarfs, are the so-called normal people—persons like you and me.

Complains Bill Barty, 3-foot-6 actor who often works on the *Peter Gunn* TV show: "The average person regards us not as human beings with individual mentalities and skills but as freak playthings. Women pick us up and sit us in their laps. They pat us on the head and say, 'Aren't you a cute little darling.'

"We don't like being treated as children. Among us we number actors, brokers, accountants, designers and machinists. And yet in most cases we are being discriminated against because of our size. People won't hire us for jobs we are qualified to perform because we're little."

Bob Brower, a midget from Des Moines, Iowa, who owns interests in three supermarkets, disagrees with Barty.

"We can't expect the world to adjust to us," Brower says. "We have to adjust to the world. Many little people won't do this. On the one hand they say they want to be treated like everyone else. On the other hand they ask for special privileges.

"For example," Brower continues, "at this convention they've passed the following resolutions:

- "Half-fare on planes, trains and buses for little people.
- "Half-price meals, also lower cafeteria steam-tables 'so we can see what we are buying.' Also, members of the Culinary Workers' Union should notify its members to desist from addressing such remarks as 'What will you have, Sonny?'
- "Some shoe manufacturer should create midget-size shoes at reasonable prices, thereby freeing us little people from the high price of custom-made shoes.
- "A committee should meet with and importune the telephone company for phone booths reachable by 4-foot persons. The phone company should also include glass paneling in the lower portion of phone booths, so when a little person is making a call, a big person will not be trying to step inside.

Midgets Are Made

"What we need from the public," Brower contends, "is not special privilege or special equipment but understanding born of knowledge. Most people don't know that any man or woman may be the parent of a midget.

"Except in very rare cases, midgets aren't born. We're made. We're the result of faulty gland-functioning. Generally, an under-functioning pituitary gland produces a midget. Other glands like the thyroid and gonads are also involved.

"In my own case," Brower reveals, "I was a normal baby at birth. I think I weighed 7 or 8 pounds. I was the second of seven living boys. My father, a farmer from Mexico, Mo., is 5 feet 8. My mother is 5 feet 1. I'm the only midget in our family.

"I stopped growing normally when I was 4 years old. I was then 3 feet 5 inches tall. By the time I was 16, I was only 3 feet 11.

"The worst part," Brower recalls, "is that my parents never realized there was anything wrong with me. They thought that sooner or later I'd start to grow and catch up.

"The first person who realized I was too short for my age was my high school principal in Vandalia, Missouri. He was a diabetic who made periodic visits to the Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. He brought my plight before the Vandalia Business Men's Club, and they paid for my first visit to Barnes.

"At the hospital they gave me shots of pituitin for three years. I started growing again after the treatments stopped. From age 18 to 25, I grew 11 inches. That's another thing people don't know about midgets. Our bone-ends do not close or ossify so that after 30 we can still grow several inches. Sometimes we can

Group here is a portion of the 200 midgets and dwarfs who showed up at Las Vegas, Nev., recently for annual convention of the Little People of America.

even outgrow our midgethood. I'm now 4 feet 10 and 33 years old. My wife is 4 feet 2.

"We have two adopted children. Insofar as I know we're the only midgets in the world who've been allowed to adopt normal children. As you probably know, midgets do not beget midget children. The children of midgets usually outgrow their parents before they are 9 years old."

Several midgets I interviewed here revealed that practically all midget mothers are delivered via Caesarean section. They are usually reluctant to bring babies into the world.

The reason for this is that whether one or both parents are midgets, the overwhelming odds—there are only a handful of exceptions—are that the children will be normal. And while normality and conformity bring happiness to a child, they invariably mean heartbreak to the midget parents.

The Daughter's Dilemma

"It's so very hard to describe," one little woman told me, "how I felt while my daughter was growing up. I prayed that she would grow tall and pretty and charming. And yet deep down inside I knew the day would come when she would be ashamed of me and her father, because we are midgets and different, and in the eyes of her schoolmates that would make her different, too.

"Well, my daughter grew up. She's 5 feet 6. But how that girl suffered. I remember the first time she brought a beau home and introduced him to us. He tried not to show it but he was shocked. He stopped going with her after that.

"Today my daughter is married to a very prosperous oil man in Texas or Oklahoma, but we never see her. She told her husband she was an orphan. The poor child was afraid that if she ever told any man the truth, she'd never get married. Her father and I understand and forgive her."

Most little people blame their parents for their maladjustment to society. "My childhood was the most miserable one in the world," one dwarf confided to me. "My parents kept me hidden. If we were driving from one town to another and a car was passing us, they'd make me duck down. They were completely ashamed of me. They made me feel despicable and unwanted, and I can't remember how many times I contemplated suicide.

"I think practically every midget or dwarf when he first realizes his affliction, his handicap, is filled with such shock and despair that he starts to think of suicide. Only in cases where the parents are intelligent and understanding do midgets grow up with a relatively good chance to adjust to society."

One such well-adjusted midget is Frank Delfino of San Diego, Calif., whose midget daughter, Ruth, was the most beautiful little woman at the convention.

The son of Italian-American parents, Frank was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., some 50 years ago. He weighed 8 pounds at birth, enjoyed a normal, healthy infancy until he was 6. Then his growth lagged. His parents made him eat larger portions of food. When this did no good, they took him to the family doctor.

Specialists were consulted. They prescribed pituitary extracts. But at 13, Frankie was as tall as he had been at 5. He was 3 feet 8 inches tall.

Fortunately, the Delfino parents insisted upon treating their son as if he were a normal youngster. When Frankie said he wanted to try out for the football team at Brooklyn Technical High School or to play shortstop on the neighborhood baseball team, they told him to go ahead and do his best.

Over the years, Frank's friends and schoolmates came to accept him. He even won a varsity letter as a high school cheer leader. Frank's parents gave him violin lessons. He developed into an excellent musician. Surrounded by a family that exuded warmth, love and sympathy, Frank succeeded in adjusting physically and mentally to a world he never made.

In 1934 he came to Chicago as a violinist at the World's Fair. There he met Sadie Williams, a midget who was working at a candy exhibition. By that time Frank had grown to 4 feet. Sadie was 3 feet 10.

They were married in Minneapolis in 1937. And seven months later a daughter, Ruth, was prematurely born to the couple.

Against the Odds

Ruth weighed 5 pounds 12 ounces at birth and measured 18 inches. "But even so," Sadie Delfino avers, "I knew instinctively that the baby was a midget. In many ways I was thankful because I knew it would be easier to raise her. There is only one other family I know of, the Clifton family in Austin, Tex., in which a midget mother had a midget baby."

Last July, Ruth Delfino, 23 years of age, 4 feet 3 inches in height, was married in San Diego to Richard William Spiering, 21, 5 feet 10 inches tall, of Monticello, Minn.

A beautiful woman, blonde and hazel-eyed and perfectly proportioned, Ruthie says, "I had the most wonderful childhood. My parents worked for the Curtis Candy Company, and as we traveled around the country together, we were such a closely-knit family, we were together so much of the time, that I never realized my parents or I were smaller than other people.

"I never felt strange even when I went to Woodrow Wilson Junior High. My first realization that I was a midget came in my junior year at Herbert Hoover High in San Diego. The teachers began asking me various medical questions about my background. They tried to find out why I was so small. It was only then that I realized I was different.

"The trouble with most parents who have a midget child is that they either place the child in show business or keep him hidden at home. In both cases the child begins to feel like a freak. My parents raised me perfectly. I'm a good secretary, if I say so myself, and I think I'm a pretty good wife." ■

60's

Independence Welcomes Little People

A DISTRICT CONVENTION OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, Inc., opened Saturday at the Ramada Inn in Independence. Checking the registration roll were (from left) Gerald Rasa, Warrensburg, Mo., Missouri co-ordinator; Steve George, Bartlesville, Okla., and his father (seated), Wallace George, who is district co-ordinator for the parents' auxiliary to the organization; Miss Mary Lou Stevens, Topeka, Kansas co-ordinator, and Mrs. Charles Jones, Ardmore, Okla., district chairman.

INDEPENDENCE played host to the little people this weekend.

A total of 34 members of the district seven of the Little People of America, Inc., gathered Saturday at the Ramada Inn in Independence to begin a 2-day bi-monthly conference. The organization is made up of height-handicapped persons under 4 feet 10 inches tall, from four states.

The convention opened with a welcoming speech from Donald M. Slusher, Independence mayor. After a dinner and entertainment, a business meeting was held in which plans were made for the national convention, set for July 28 through August 1 in Minneapolis. Because many of the members came from as far as 500 miles, the convention was scheduled to adjourn after devotions yesterday morning.

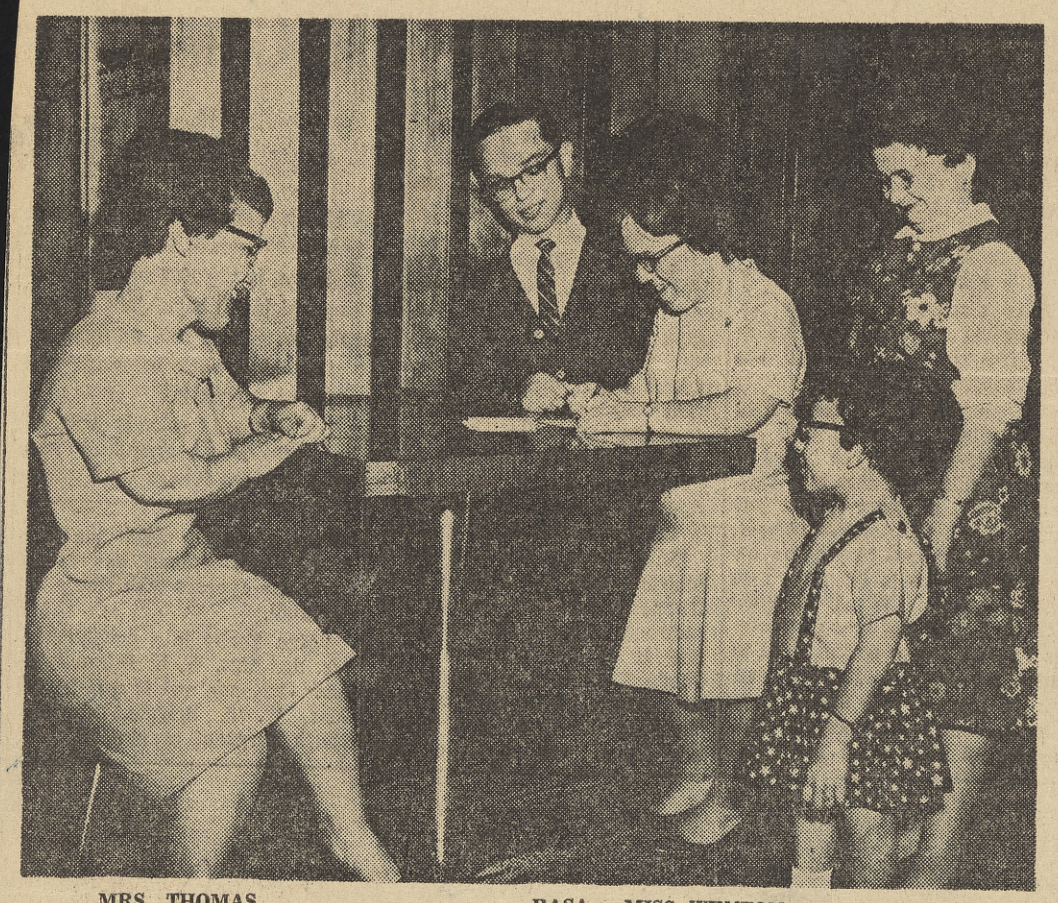
Founded in 1960, the Little People of America works to enable its members to adjust physically, professionally, and socially to modern society. A voluntary organization, it consists of almost 1,000 members in the 12 districts in the United States.

Gerald Rasa, of Warrensburg, Mo. who is Missouri co-ordinator for the organization, said there are more than 75 types of height-handicaped persons who are properly called dwarfs. He said the chances of dwarf couples having normal sized children depended on the type.

"So far, the understanding of this condition and possible solutions is a relatively unexplored area of medical science," he said.

Some full-sized relatives of the little people also attended the convention. Among them was Wallace George, Bartlesville, Okla., who is district chairman of the auxiliary of parents with dwarf children.

60's



MRS. THOMAS RASA MISS WENTON MRS. WYLER

LITTLE PEOPLE REGISTER — About 30 members of The Little People of America, Inc., registered Saturday for the organization's 7th district quarterly meeting at the Sands Motor Lodge, 1611 Range Line, Joplin. Shown at the registration table are: Mrs. Ruth Thomas, Kansas City, Mo.; Gerald Rasa, Warrensburg, Mo.; Kathy Wenton, Choctaw, Okla.; Mary Lou Stevens, Topeka, Kan., and Mrs. Joy Wyler, Pittsburg, Kan. The meeting continues today. The meeting of members from Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas gave the "Little People" opportunity to discuss mutual problems. Officials of the group said local and area persons interested in joining the organization should contact Mrs. Thomas or Mrs. Wyler at the Sands today. — (Joplin Globe photo by Baird Studios.)

Little People Lick Big Problems Facing Nation's Midgets, Dwarfs

By Glenna Lee Gallemore

Miss Virginia Cowardin, local member of the "Little People of America" is seeking to recruit new members of this organization for persons under 4 feet 11 inches tall.

Now busy working in the Wesley Methodist Church booth at the New Mexico State Fair, Miss Cowardin said the "Little People" do not want special favors. However, they have banded together to reach out a friendly hand to others like themselves.

WE DO NOT want to be treated as children, freaks or as dolls," she said.

Another member of "Little People," Billy Barty, 3'6" actor, appeared at the fair this year. He and Miss Cowardin discussed the organization which he helped organize.

Miss Cowardin said the second annual national convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nev., Nov. 27 to 30, Clint Lester, Grants, director of District No. 10, said. Mr. Lester asked Miss Cowardin to help get new members in the Albuquerque area.

Persons under the height of 4'11" are scientifically classified as "dwarfs" but there is a difference between a dwarf and a midget. A midget is a perfectly formed individual of small size. A dwarf is deformed in that he usually has a large head andy body with short legs and arms.

THE ONLY limitation to membership in the organization is height.

What many people don't understand is that any parent can produce little people. The primary cause is due to a mal-functioning gland, usually the pitituary of the thyroid, or both.

A little person is usually born normal but somewhere along the line, probably before he is six or seven years old, he stops growing. Doctors have administered shots of pituitin to increase growth in many cases.

UNLIKE normal people, little people can continue to grow, or start their growth cycle over again, even into the thirties. Normal ossification of the bone ends, which prohibits further growth, does not occur in little people.

"Little People do marry. Sometimes they marry normal adults," Earl Warr, who is 4'5" tall and weighs 90 pounds, said, "but the best marriages are between two like persons."

MR. WARR, Goodyear, Ariz., recently drove his full-sized car (especially made with built up pedals and seat) to Albuquerque to visit Miss Cowardin.

He is retired from the Navy where he did special mechanical work in the noses of huge Navy aircraft.

He said that two small persons can have a comfortable home scaled to their own size. Furniture can be smaller and lower.

MARRIAGES of little people — either with both parents or just one small — nearly always produce normal sized children. In fact, there are only two cases on record in this country of midget parents producing midget children, Miss Cowardin said.

However, children usually have outgrown their parents by the time they are 10 years old.

ONE MIDGET wrote to the district chairman, "My little girls now seven and nine, are both bigger than I. But I am still the boss, I hope."

Mr. Lester is 4'8" tall and weighs 120 pounds. His wife, Mazie, is 4'8" and her husband said "just weighs."

Together they own and operate the Grants Motor Lodge and service station in Grants. They are parents of a normal daughter and grandparents of two normal, active boys.

MEMBERS of the Little People of America represent actors, accountants, teachers and many other professions and occupations. They want to be accepted in society and to show what they can do, Miss Cowardin said.

"Have you even wondered what the world would look like if you were well under five feet tall?" Miss Cowardin asked.

MISS COWARDIN said "Until I met Mr. Warr, this fall, I never felt really at ease with people. Nor did I feel that someone understood me and my problems."

It is the companionship and understanding that makes the Little People band together, Miss Cowardin said.

Miss Cowardin came to Albuquerque in 1923 with her parents. She went through the eighth grade in Albuquerque public schools. She quit, she said, because "the going was just too rough." There was too much difference in size between the other students.

AS A MIDGET, she has had a better than average life. Her family was close - knit and they instilled in her the ability to live with her limitations. They inspired her to do things of which she is capable.

"I was never hidden nor made to feel ashamed that I was small," she said.

Miss Cowardin took dancing lessons in Amarillo and Dallas in Pueblo, Colo., and Hollywood.

SHE OWNED and taught in her "Belen School of the Dance" in Belen for many years. She now gives private lessons to small groups of pre-school children in Albuquerque.

Miss Cowardin said that she can drive a car on the mesa but isn't tall enough to see well enough to drive in traffic.

Anyone in Albuquerque who knows of a small person, a dwarf or midget is asked to write or telephone Miss Cowardin, 1031 Vista Grande NW, CH 2-4007.

"Little people are often painfully shy and retiring," she said. "They are reluctant to come forward least they be conspicuous. But I will be happy to contact anyone in town and lend a friendly hand. If I can find who they are."

DUES in the Little People group is $5 per person or $7.50 a family annually. This is the national dues. There are no local or district fees.

The junior group for little people 16 years old and younger belong to "Little Little People of America." There are no dues for the children.

At the national convention in Las Vegas, the members will be housed in the Hacienda Hotel free of charge. All meals during the four days will be half price.

The national president is Dan Turner, Asheville, N.C.

Anyone in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah may write the Lesters at Grants Motel Lodge, 923 Santa Fe Ave., Grants, for

The Albuquerque Tribune October 9, 1961

'Little People' Plan National Meeting

Clint Lester, chairman of District No. 10 of the Little People of America, and Mrs. Lester will arrive from Grants tomorrow at 10 a.m. to visit with Miss Virginia Cowardin, 1031 Vista Grande NW.

Mrs. Lester will remain here for a few days in order to recruit delegates to the second national convention of LPA in Las Vegas, Nev., Nov. 27-30.

Anyone interested in attending the convention may write or call Mrs. Lester or Miss Cowardin at CH 2-4007.

Non - members will be charged a registration fee of $2. National annual dues in the organization are $5 per person or $7.50 per family. Little people under 18 years of age are called the "Little Littles" and their dues are free.

All rooms in the Hacienda Hotel in Las Vegas will be free and meals half-price.

Free Flights Planned

Billy Barty, 3' 6" founder of the organization, has arranged free flights from San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The Hacienda Hotel will reimburse all expenses for gasoline for any group which forms a car pool and drives to the convention. Cut-rate flights have been arranged out of Chicago, St. Louis and Detroit.

Those arriving Nov. 26 are invited to attend evening church services en masse. There will be a "Little Open Golf Tournament" on Nov. 28 and a baseball game between the "Eastern Bantams" and the "Western Shorties" on Nov. 29. The final banquet will be held on Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. in the Hacienda ballroom.

Style Show

Prizes will be awarded to the winner of the fashion show Nov. 28. Contestants will design and make their own clothes.

A Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput (married couple over 50 years of age) will be selected as well as a "king" and "queen" married couple. A prince and princess will be selected from among the single people. A teenage king and queen will be crowned.

The Devry Institute in Chicago will award two $500 scholarships in radio and electronics.

Mr. Barty notes that the group of 20 people who met in the Riverside Hotel in Reno in 1957 has now grown to a membership of more than 700. Their goal is to enlist the membership of each of the estimated 3,500 midgets in the United States.

Inquiries Welcome

Every little person of America, midgets and dwarfs, are invited to join this convention. A midget is defined as anyone under 4' 11" tall.

Little people married to big people are invited to bring their spouses and families. Baby - sitting is available. They will receive the same benefits of the little people.

Mr. Lester's district is composed of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. His address is the Grants Motor Lodge, 923 Santa Fe Ave., Grants. He will be happy to answer any inquiries from his district.

Mark Birthdays

The Civic Pal Club will celebrate the birthdays of 15 members when it meets at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Civic Auditorium. Pinochle, bridge, cribbage and other games will follow a covered dish luncheon.

Host and hostesses will be Worthy Neel, Mrs. Mable Conlin and Mrs. Mary Beesley.

N. M. Members Leave Grants Sunday For Little People of America Meeting

A half dozen New Mexico members of The Little People of America will leave Grants early Sunday for Las Vegas, Nev., to attend the second annual national convention of the organization.

The Little People are just what the name implies — little people. Membership in the organization is limited to persons of 4 feet 11 inches tall, or shorter. The national organization was founded three years ago by Billy Barty, 3-foot-6-inch midget who performed at the State Fair last September, and a group of other small people.

Clint Lester of Grants, who is 4 feet 8 inches tall, is director for District 10 of the Little People, a district composed of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah. Lester and his wife, who is 4 feet 6 inches tall, operate a motel in Grants.

Lester will be in charge of the convention motor caravan from this district, which will start from Grants early Sunday. Albuquerque residents who will go include Miss Virginia Cowardin, 1031 Vista Grande NW, Pamela Dinger, 13, and Opal Lois Williams, 14.

Johnny Smith, 14, of Reserve and Mrs. E. B. Wollford of Denver will go to Grants Saturday to join the caravan. So will Bobbie Owens of Wapanucka, Okla.

Dan Turner of Ashville, N. C., national president of the Little People, is due in Albuquerque sometime today. He also will travel to Nevada with the New Mexico caravan. Similar caravans from Iowa and Arizona will join the New Mexico group for the last part of the drive to Las Vegas.

The Little People organized formally so small folk could know others like themselves and to teach that the little ones are victims of mal-functioning glands and normal people can have midget children, according to Lester.

Technically, the small folk fall into two classes — dwarfs and midgets. Dwarfs have normal-sized heads and bodies, with shortened arms and legs. Midgets are normally proportioned, but simply do not attain usual size. Usually, dwarfs or midgets are normal at birth, but growth slows within a few years. A dwarf, however, can continue to grow until about 30 years of age, because his bone ends do not ossify as in normal people.

Medical treatment can, in some cases, stimulate growth and prevent bowed legs, which often occur in the soft bone structure of the little people.

While normal people can have midget children, little people usually have normal children, Lester says. There are only two cases on record that midgets were born of

Continued on B-10

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL November 24, 1961

N.M. Little Folk To Attend Meet

Continued from A-1

midget parents. Mr. and Mrs. Lester have a normal-sized daughter and two grandchildren, who are the usual sizes for their ages.

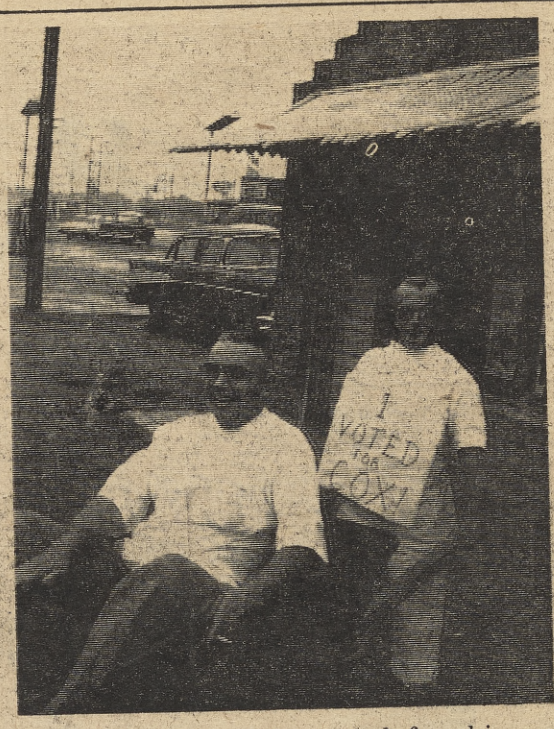
"Little people do not want sympathy, but understanding," says Lester. "They come from all walks of life. Some are teachers, actors, businessmen and housewives. They represent many occupations and professions."

Miss Cowardin teaches dancing at her home. She owned the Belen School of the Dance in Belen for some years before coming to Albuquerque.

Miss Dinger is the daughter of Mrs. Mona F. Dinger, 3105 Cypress SW. She attends the seventh grade at John Adams Junior High School, where the principal considers her a good student.

Miss Williams is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Williams of 1535 Feliz NW. She is in the fifth grade at Barcelona School. A tiny 3 feet 3 inches tall, despite her 14 years, Miss Williams plans to compete at the national convention for the honor of being the smallest person there. She has eight normal-sized brothers and sisters.

TO WED SATURDAY—Actor Billy Barty, 37, right poses with his bride-to-be, Miss Shirley Bolingbroke, 28, at the marriage license bureau in Los Angeles. Barty is 3 feet, 11 inches tall. Miss Bolingbroke, a commercial artist, is 4 feet, 3 inches. They'll be married Saturday. They met a couple of years ago at a convention of The Little People of America in Las Vegas. In background is Mrs. Catherine Barth, who issued the license. (AP Wirephoto)



JAY (SHORTY) COX, right, voted for his namesake, Jack Cox in the governor's race, and had to give a wheelbarrow ride and steak dinner to his boss, S. B. (Red) Price. The ride was around the Carrollton square. Cox, who stands less than 5 feet tall, is a barber at Price's Barber Shop.

A LITTLE SQUIRT—Bill Albaugh, national representative of the soft drink firm Squirt and known as "Little Squirt," pours some of the sparkling beverage for Marjorie Bourassa as some of 500 members of the Little People of America here for their national convention take time out for some fun at a local casino. Albaugh's wife, Maria, and Hollywood stunt-man Harry Monty are on box, while at left is Jerry Maren, known as "Little Oscar," and partly hidden at right is Dan Turner, vice-president and next national president of the Little People. (SUNfoto)

BILL PROVES SMALL SIZE NO HANDICAP

Size doesn't bother Bill Raecke, 24, of 1002 L St., Lincoln, Neb.

Bill stands just four feet seven inches tall and weighs 85 pounds.

He arrived in town yesterday to attend the first annual convention of the National Association of Little People of America and to visit with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Young, 1307 Exley Ave., Las Vegas.

Mrs. Young is superintendent of nurses at Sunrise Hospital.

Though he has to look up to do it, Bill stares life full in the face.

"I figured that out long ago when I stopped growing as a kid and faced the problem of living a productive life in a tall world or sitting in a corner with a chip on my shoulder.

"I decided never to refuse to try anything because of my size.

"I've never had reason to regret my decision."

He received a B.A. in speech in 1959 from the University of Nebraska, working his way through school at the university's television station.

Looking back on his college experiences he tells about the shock his first roommate at Nebraska got when he opened the closet door in their room before they met.

As Bill laughingly relates "Hanging there were my short jackets and trousers and on the floor my small shoes. My roommate dashed off to see the registrar, demanding to know what kind of joke was being played on him."

Bill now works as production assistant at the university television station, serving as director, cameraman, actor, writer and producer. He also works part time in a music store, selling all types of musical instruments, radio, TV and stereo sets.

He is the son of the late Walter R. Raecke of Central City, Neb., a long-time member, before his death in April, 1960, of the Nebraska legislature and two-time Democratic candidate for governor.

Bill attributes his happy adjustment to a problem which has long discouraged others to the fact he was raised by parents who treated him just like other children in the family.

His mother continues to live in Central City.

Little People Hold Business Parley Today

About 500 members of the Little People of America, gathered in Las Vegas for their national convention, will hold their first business session today at a Strip hotel.

Employment opportunities for people handicapped by small size will be the major topic of discussion at the conclave by members of the association, which is limited to persons who are under four feet nine inches in height.

The delegates also will elect one man and one woman as "Mr. and Mrs. Lillyput of America" during the convention, which will run through Thursday here.

Persons from all walks of life make up the Little People of America, which is headed by President Billy Barty, TV and movie actor who currently is playing in the Peter Gunn TV series and has been in various movies, notably "Midsummer Night's Dream."

Dan Turner, national vice-president of the association, is slated to become Barty's successor as president.

LITTLE PEOPLE

Continued from Preceding Page

Lena is now happily employed at Foster Grant's in Leominster, where she is an assembler and inspector of sunglasses. "I enjoy the work and the friendliness of my co-workers. Occasionally someone has a little fun by picking me up and sitting me on top of a soda-vending machine, but someone else always comes along and lifts me down," she chuckled.

Even severe snowstorms in winter, which once made getting to work difficult, are no longer a source of concern for Lena since the company made a special ruling: 'When the no-school whistle blows, there's no classes for children and no work for Lena."

ONE OF THE most thrilling moments in Lena's life came unexpectedly two years ago when she tuned in to the television program "This Is Your Life." The guest star was Billy Barty, well-known TV and movie actor who, himself, is only 3 feet 10 inches tall and is one of America's "little people."

Lena heard him tell of the work he had been doing among the little people on the West Coast since 1955. Her interest grew as he announced that in November of that year (1960), a national convention would be held in Las Vegas for little people from all over the United States. He urged all who could to attend.

"I was so excited!" exclaimed Lena, her eyes sparkling. "I immediately wrote Billy Barty's secretary for an application and began making plans for the trip. I needed $300 for transportation, $100 of which was collected among my co-workers at Foster Grant's. I was soon winging my way to Las Vegas."

She told of her happiness in meeting 150 little people who came from all parts of the country to attend the convention. A constitution was adopted, the United States was divided into 14 districts — each with its own chairman — and groundwork was laid for incorporation as a non-profit organization, Little People of America Inc. Billy Barty became the group's first president.

Lena was elected secretary to Marjorie Bourassa of 74 Walnut St., Manchester, N.H., chairman of District 1, which is made up of the New England States.

"Marjorie and I have been doing our best for two years to make contacts with little people in our area so that they may join our group. We have about 30 in our district now and hope many others will contact us. One must be under 4 feet 9 inches to join."

The purpose of Little People of America, according to Lena, is to provide fellowship, exchange ideas, help each other to solve common problems, create and stimulate new interests and give moral support to each other. Their motto? "Think Big."

WHAT ARE some of the problems common to little people? "To find places where we can have clothes made that really fit and buy small shoes, to find work and to cope with living in a world designed for normal-sized people," said Lena.

She confided that she wears a child's dress, size 10, and children's shoes, size 2. Stretch gloves solve the glove problem.

Self-service stores with a scarcity of clerks to help reach needed items and telephone booths with phones too high to use are added grievances. "A smile generally brings assistance in dialing a number, if anyone is near," Lena explained.

What kind of jobs do some of Lena's friends hold? "They're secretaries, bookkeepers, barbers, salesmen, repairmen, artists, draftsmen, and, of course, housewives," she said. "LPA is bringing many little people together and more and more marriages are resulting.

"Dwarf and midget children are called 'Little Littles.'"

Do any of the little people drive cars? Lena stated that many of them do drive, in cars with special pedals. "Speaking of cars reminds me," she said, "of two of our New England Little People, twin brothers, E. Romeo and Edmond Poirier. They run the Midget Twin Service Station at 289 Broadway in Taunton."

LAST JUNE Lena was hostess to 17 LPA members from New England. They came by bus, train and car, to enjoy a party and buffet in the spacious back yard of Lena's attractive home. Chief topic of conversation was the fourth annual National Convention to be held in Asheville, N.C., for four days beginning Oct. 29. Asheville is the home of Dan Turner, LPA president.

"I am counting the days until the convention," said Lena enthusiastically. "Besides the election of officers and a board of directors' meeting, there'll be a fashion show, talent show, bowling tournament, cook-out, square dancing, the crowning of Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput and announcement of the convention king and queen."

Lena, who entertained publicly for 10 years with various dances, including the jitterbug, the cha-cha, the Mexican hat dance and the hula, plans to participate in the talent show although she confessed, "I'm really too old for that now."

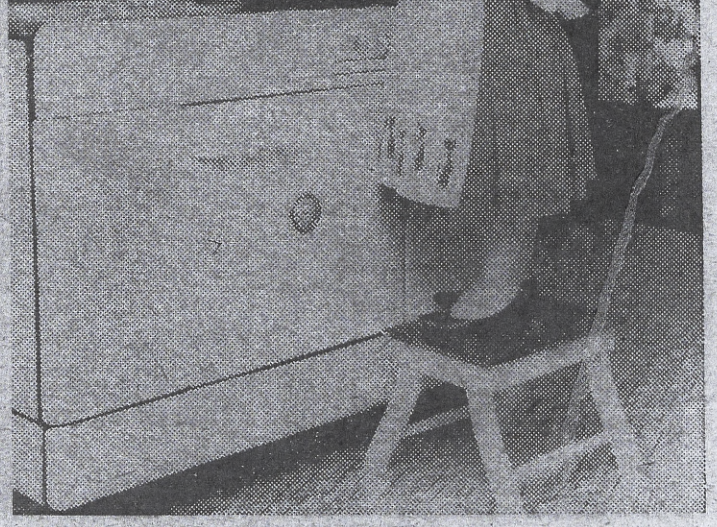
She added that she found it difficult to dance with little men at the convention, because she was accustomed to dancing with big men.

Besides dancing, Lena's other interests have included roller skating, figure skating on ice, sewing, cooking (not snacks but big meals—spaghetti and meat balls and pot roast dinners). She showed us the black and white stool she uses at home to reach the sink and stove.

Lena, generally happy and smiling, grew serious as she said, "The thing that I dislike the most is to have people on the street or in a public place stare and call me a dwarf or midget. I guess they just don't think. I try to think big, so I won't feel self-conscious."

Like many of the Little People, Lena has proved her ability to think big. She has learned to live in two worlds — a small world and a big world — and daily finds happiness in both.

SECRETARY of New England district of Little People of America Inc., Lena handles affairs of "self-help" group from own scaled-down desk.



EVER-PRESENT stool helps Lena in big job of keeping big home. She loves cooking, enjoys preparing hearty meals for father and sister.

NEXT WEEK

Lillian Pike Cain writes about an interesting — and novel — program in which 36 carefully selected high school seniors in Massachusetts and New Hampshire are currently studying the Mandarin Chinese language.

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FEATURE PARADE

LENA *and the* LITTLE PEOPLE

LITTLE woman — big smile. Lena M. Richard, 43, but under four feet tall, takes life in stride.

By Ruth E. Rose

LITTLE, lively and likeable — that's Fitchburg's 43-year-old Lena M. Richard, who stands only 3 feet 11 inches tall and is a member of a "growing" organization, Little People of America Inc.

Born in Portsmouth, N.H., Lena is one of the 11 children of Thaddy E. and the late Agnes Richard. She now lives with her father and a younger sister, Irene, at 216 St. Joseph Ave.

"My seven sisters and three brothers — all living and all but one married — are all average height or more. I was the seventh child," she said with a smile, "and I guess seven was an unlucky number."

Lena's pleasing personality and perseverance have helped her to overcome any "unlucky" start she may have had. Her determination to cope with living in a big world, her sometimes unhappy school days, her difficulty later in finding employment and the new happiness that tuning in at random tc a television program two years ago gave her, highlight her interesting story.

"I was so small that I did not enter school until I was seven and a half years old," she said. "At eight, when I was confirmed at St. Joseph's Church, I wore a toddler's dress, size 2.

"It was just natural, I guess, for the normal-sized children in school to tease me, but many times I came home crying because of their remarks. Those were the moments when my mother showed her wisdom by not babying me or outwardly sympathizing with me too much. Consequently, I slowly learned to accept the seemingly unkind things the children sometimes said. I completed the eighth grade at St. Joseph's School but did not feel I wanted to continue through high school."

BABY-SITTING and housework seemed to be the only jobs available for Lena after she left school, because of her size and age. She managed housework without too much difficulty with the help of a stool to reach the sink or stove top.

Her diminutive size was often an asset when baby-sitting. "If it was necessary to remain all night with the children, I was small enough to fit into a child's crib, eliminating a sleeping problem."

The petite Lena, immaculately groomed from her prettily curled brown hair to her tiny, trim-fitting shoes, told enthusiastically of her first full-time job with the Doehla Greeting Card Co.

"The owner, Harry Doehla, is handicapped and consequently understood my problem. 'Size does not matter,' he said, 'as long as you can use your hands.' I worked for the Doehla Company for 10 years until the business was moved to Nashua, N.H."

Continued on Next Page

Fitchburg's Lena M. Richard and other 'shorties' have joined hands to solve common problems. Their motto: 'Think Big!'

NEW OUTLOOK and brighter social life have come to little people since formation of nation-wide Little People of America Inc., two years ago. Some of 30 New England members were at this typical recent gathering at home of Lena M. Richard (second from right). George Rollins, at left in first row, and Ernest Niles, third from left in first row, are both "Little Littles."

—Times Photo by Malcolm Gamble.

Little Little And Big Little

Everything's relative in this world and to Miss Phylis Polston of Wixom, Mich., three feet-two-inches tall, conversation with 36-year-old Martin Mazik of Pittsburgh, four feet-ten-inches tall, is a neck-craning business. Mazik is one of the tallest of the Little People of America Inc., in Asheville for a five-day convention in Grove Park Inn. (Story on Page 8.)

'Think Big' Is Slogan Little Folk Adhere To

By MARY ELLEN WOLCOTT

"We feel that little people should adjust to the world, rather than expect the world to adjust to us."

The speaker was short on stature but long on philosophy and the art of living happily in an out-size world.

Bob Brower of Phoenix, Ariz., assistant office manager of a chain of super markets, was chatting with a group of his friends, all of them delegates to the fourth convention of Little People of America, now under way in Grove Park Inn.

And Brower, for a change, could look down when speaking to some of his friends, because none of the diminutive delegates are taller than four feet, ten inches, and most are much shorter.

These little folk have a slogan all their own—"Think Big"—and a little listening in shows how successfully they've applied this thought.

"Most of the people we know are so used to us that they forget we're small; it no longer becomes an obstacle in business or friendships," said Lee Kitchens of Dallas, Tex. And in the state which boasts of big men, this small man stands tall—he's an engineer with 30 persons working under his supervision.

Kitchens pointed out that initially new friends or business associates might be ill at ease briefly in their presence, but this is soon forgotten when the new acquaintance finds that the little person is qualified for his position and "thinks positive."

And what sort of reaction from friends of normal size pleases the little people?

"The nicest compliment for a little person is, 'I don't think of you as being short.' This means that he's passed the so-called height barrier," said one.

"Now that I've joined this organization, it confuses me to look down," James Liles of Asheville quipped. "I'm used to looking up to people. Whenever I walk down the street with an ordinary person, they're the ones that seem out of place. They're so tall!"

Concern with aiding others with a size problem is their chief topic of conversation. "We feel that any parent of a child that is going to remain small and be a little person should make sure they get an education," according to William Albaugh of Camden, N. J., employe of a soft drink company.

"A little person without an education doesn't have a chance. It's what you have from the shoulders up that counts!"

And Albaugh, who is known as "Little Squirt," has turned his size into an advantage. As a public relations man with a firm manufacturing a drink called "Squirt," his picture is the trademark for the product. "If I had let my size bother me, I couldn't have done the job," he said.

Little bodies house big hearts, you soon discover when the conversation turns to "Little Littles," or children destined to remain small.

Little couples are quick to adopt such children when they lose their natural parents. Parents who have adopted "little litties" pointed out that it is rare for such children to be placed with normal-sized parents.

On the other hand, many of the little parents have normal-sized children, with one couple having a son six feet, five inches tall.

But big, little or in between, the size of the children is no problem to little parents who "think big," they report.

And for little persons whose parents are of normal size, "If you grow up this way, it's not as if you'd been thrown into the situation all of a sudden. It's an adjustment since childhood," said Miss Janet Herrick of Jamestown, N.Y.

"If my mother had had her way, I would have been pampered," said Janet, whose brothers and sisters are of normal size. "But when I had trouble beginning to walk, my father wouldn't let her pamper me. 'Let her get up and try again' was his advice." And from Janet's smile, you knew she agreed with her father.

A bookkeeper in an office, Janet pointed out that her only business adjustment was that she had to have a box so her feet didn't dangle. "Many little people are bookkeepers," she said.

Looking around like any woman at the clothes worn by tiny ladies, Miss Tena Anderson of Atlanta pointed out that the majority of little women are skillful at making and designing their own clothes.

The disadvantage of a child's dress is that the style is usually too juvenile; and little ladies are just as style-conscious as their taller feminine friends.

Shoes are the biggest clothing problem, and many little people are forced to have them custom made.

The most honored piece of furniture in the home of the little people is the footstool — for without it, the sink, stove and most everything else is out of reach.

One husband reported that he had had counters built 27 inches high in his house to accomodate his wife's stature, but he pointed out that this isn't done too often because it poses a problem in resale of the property.

"As for refrigerators, we use the bottom shelf," he laughed.

Another chuckled as he told of saving lightbulb replacing chores for a normal-size friend.

Discussing their problems with amusement, a husband said that his wife, in preparing to entertain tall house guests, had an unusual choreclimbing on a footstool to see if the tops of the lamp shades are dusty. "And some of us can hardly see the top of an end table'," he said.

"Most of our living room furniture is normal size, since most of our friends are normal size," said another.

For little people the favorite furniture style is contemporary, or Danish modern, because the furniture pieces are low.

And while the diminutive delegates laughed and chatted about the lobby, one bright-faced little lady waited patiently at the elevator—she couldn't reach the button. And her smile, when helped, was as big as all outdoors.

The Little People from throughout America will be in Asheville through Friday morning for confences, business sessions, social events and fashion and talent shows.

Highlights of their convention will include talks by Gov. Terry Sanford, Rep. Roy A. Taylor and State Rep. Gordon Greenwood, and the crowning of Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput and a King and Queen.

According to one official, "The feeling of belonging and comradeship is impossible to describe. One member has said, 'It is like being lost in a foreign country and then meeting someone who speaks English'."

And according to one small man who has adjusted to big problems, "The Little People of America demonstrates the truth of the saying that good things come in small packages."

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

Dedicated to the Upbuilding of Western North Carolina

7c Daily . . . 20c Sunday — Asheville, N. C., Tuesday Morning, October 30, 1962 — WWNC Radio 570 CBS

93rd Year . No. 303

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy and mild with scattered showers. Details, Page 2.

—Citizen Photo—Glenn

A KING-SIZED STOGIE was just the ticket for Robert Kanter of San Diego, Calif., at the Little People of America's convention in Grove Park Inn Monday. Helpfully proffering a light was Miss Mary Taylor of Westmont, N. J., as Bob Brower of Phoenix, Ariz., looked on. The five-day gathering continues through Thursday with a luncheon address by Gov. Sanford that day.

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Their Status Is Looking Up

By PETE (Tall Man) GILPIN
Citizen Staff Writer

An excess of height, say five-foot 11 or so, can sure make a guy feel insecure.

If you don't believe it, trot out to Grove Park Inn where the Little People of America have moved in lock, stock and footstools for their fourth annual convention.

See if you don't look twice the first time you watch Robert Kanter of San Diego, Calif., light up a cigar. At first glance you're tempted to snatch the stogie from him and deliver a first class lecture on being too young to smoke.

Don't. Kanter loves cigars, has smoked them for years.

Or to sympathize with perky Phyllis Polston of Wixom, Mich., a three-foot-two, almost the shortest delegate and pondering possible unemployment problems.

Seems she babysits with her cousins and the youngest, a boy 1½, is now almost too much for her. Oh, she can take care of most of his needs, but he's reached the stage where he wants to be picked up by Phyllis and he's become quite an armful.

A half-inch shorter than Phyllis and the littlest LPA of those assembled here is Miss Mary Danville of Holbrook, Mass. Sunk low in an easy chair, fellow members literally towered over her.

"Think Big" is the motto of this unique organization, limited to 60 inches and below, and it's obvious that they follow it to the letter.

For instance, there's Lee Kitchens from traditionally-tall Texas who, as an electronic engineer in Dallas supervises the work of some 30 subordinates, all of normal height.

Or Francis Killeen of Granite Quarry, N. C., who owns and operates one rest home and administers four others. Miss Francis Carney of Nashville, Tenn., works for the State Rehabilitation Service and directs the activities of 17 employes.

That they rise to the occasion wasn't questioned, but it also became quite obvious that they were perfectly capable of bringing a normal-sized person down to their size. One such person found himself alternately squatting or kneeling in carrying on conversations. What's more the conversation was so engrossing, he never even noticed his own peculiar position until it was pointed out to him.

Monday's activities primarily revolved around a board of directors meeting with a fashion show in the evening followed by a talent review.

The five-day gathering is the group's first trip east for a national meeting. Prior conventions were at Reno and Las Vegas where it was reported the hosts thoughtfully provided small stools in front of each slot machine.

Judging from the adaptability of the Little People, it certainly wasn't necessary. But that's the purpose of the organization, to show the small of stature they aren't the only ones in the world with such a problem, according to executive secretary James C. Liles of Asheville.

THE ASHEVILLE TIMES

Asheville, N. C. Tuesday, October 30, 1962 Section Two

MRS. ALBAUGH MRS. RAABE MRS. BROWER

Old Friends

Old friendships are being renewed by members of Little People of America as they hold their fourth annual convention this week in Grove Park Inn. Looking very glad to see each other are Mrs. Bill Albaugh of Camden, N. J., wife of the publicity chairman for the organization; Mrs. Marie Raabe of Broomall, Pa.; and Mrs. Bob Brower of Phoenix, Ariz., wife of the vice president of Little People. The ladies at the convention were entertained at a fashion show last night. Activities for today include bowling at Star Lanes Bowling Center this afternoon and a grand cook-out tonight, weather permitting.

—Citizen Photo—Glenn

SIZE WAS NO FACTOR as the Little People of America took over Star Lanes Bowling Center Tuesday afternoon. Picking up some tips from longtime bowler George Baehm III of Great Neck, Long Island, N.Y., was Miss Janet Herrick of Jamestown, N.Y. All the scores weren't high, but, after all, that's the way the ball bounces.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Little People Make A Hit Knocking Down The Pins

By PETE GILPIN
Citizen Staff Writer

The punch may have been stronger back in Rip Van Winkle's day, but little folks haven't lost their love of bowling.

The Little People of America in convention here demonstrated that to everyone's satisfaction here Tuesday as they flocked to Star Lanes Bowling Center for the afternoon.

The game was nine pins back when Washington Irving penned his tale, but the addition of an extra pin over the years had, if anything, redoubled the enthusiasm with which these pint-sized keglers took aim.

One thing was certain. When the LPA's took their leave later, they left behind no Rips set for a 20-year-snooze. Their enthusiasm is entirely too contagious for naps.

Not all of the convention delegates took to the lanes. Some settled for Bingo, perhaps a hangover from these previous conventions in Reno and Las Vegas.

The afternoon of bowling followed a morning business session at which they were welcomed by Police Chief A. R. Sluder, not an especially large man as lawmen go, but certainly a king-sized cop for this occasion. The diminutive delegates dispensed with business by noon, dined in a manner that caused one Grove Park Inn employe to comment there was nothing small about their appetites, and then they headed for the lanes.

Their stay here so far hasn't been without incident.

Footstools have been standard equipment for most rooms, but a certain amount of foresight is needed. One little guest, blithely used the stool to enter a bathtub, then had more than a mite of activity in climbing out of the tub once the bath was over. She remains nameless by request.

Another, Miss Marion Van Harkins of Hawthorne, N. J., needed a footstool outside her door—to reach the keyhole.

There may be definite adjustments necessary for the Little People, but there are advantages too.

Jim Liles of Asheville, treasurer and executive vice president, noted that the old tail gunner's spot on Flying Fortresses of World War II vintage were just the right size for LPA members.

But more up-to-date was Mrs. Marcella Brower's comment that being small has definite advantages when it comes to raising youngsters. (The Browers, of Phoenix, Ariz., have two normal-sized, adopted children.) First, the youngsters accept you faster. Secondly, there's no stooping over in dressing them or combing their hair.

Bill and Marie Albaugh of Camden, N. J., recalled a recent visit to Miami. They had just finished checking into a motel when a small boy knocked on the door and asked Bill if his little girl, Marie, could come out and play.

She did.

Mrs. Albaugh also offered a suggestion to normal parents who shush their youngsters' comments about the stature of the Little People.

"They shouldn't," Mrs. Albaugh said, "They should learn to adjust to our height just as we did. We're not ashamed of it and they aren't hurting our feelings."

Wednesday, the LPAs turn to politics and vote on officers, Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput and a king and a queen.

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

SECTION TWO WED., OCT. 31, 1962

Tall Congratulations

Congratulations from one delegate to another followed the election of new officers by the Little People of America this morning in Grove Park Inn. Bob Brower of Phoenix, Ariz., new president of the Little People, is shown receiving the congratulations of C. J. Tucker Jr. of Atlanta, delegate to a Southern Bell Telephone Company conference also under way in Grove Park Inn. Other new national officers elected by the Little People were: William Albaugh of Camden, N. J., vice president; Miss Janet Herrick of Jamestown, N. Y., secretary, and James C. Liles of Asheville, reelected treasurer. Delegates to the convention, which will continue through tomorrow, chose Des Moines, Iowa, as the site of their convention next July. Brower succeeds Danny Turner of Asheville as president.

MISS HERRICK ALBAUGH LILES BROWER TUCKER

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN
SECTION TWO
THURS., NOV. 1, 1962

—Citizen Photo—Ball

CONGRATULATIONS WERE IN ORDER all the way around in Asheville Wednesday at Grove Park Inn during the fourth annual convention of the Little People of America Inc. Shaking hands and sharing a secret were Danny Turner of Asheville, outgoing president, and his successor, Bob Brower of Phoenix, Ariz., third and fourth from left. What the others didn't know was that the night would bring the crowning of Bill and Marie Albaugh of Camden, N.J., at left, as Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput, while Dale Paullin of Marshalltown, Iowa, and Miss Nancy Vick of Chicago would be crowned as king and queen of LPA.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Little People Want The Seats Put Back Into Telephone Booths

By PETE GILPIN
Citizen Staff Writer

Memo to American Tel & Tel:

Better install seats in your New York City phone booths at once.

A high priority request is being prepared here by the Little People of America and it's understandable. Many of the LPAs need those seats to climb upon so they can reach the coin slot.

What should make the request of more interest to American Tel and Tel is that it will be delivered in the name of LPA by George Baehm III, who in addition to being a full-fledged member of the Little People just happens also to be an American Tel and Tel shareholder.

The phone booth was just one topic on a busy Wednesday agenda at the LPA's fourth annual convention in Grove Park Inn here.

The group elected new officers, a king and queen and Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput.

They installed their new leaders at a Wednesday night banquet and then held an inaugural ball. It should be noted here that, although the gyrations of the Twist may seem awkward for some of normal height, the LPA's take to the step (?) with astounding ease.

Bob Brower, Phoenix, Ariz., executive of a supermarket chain, was elected president of the group succeeding Danny Turner of Asheville.

Other new officers are William Albaugh of Camden, N.J., vice president, and Miss Janet Herrick of Jamestown, N.Y., vice president. James C. Liles of Asheville was re-elected treasurer.

The delegates voted to hold their 1963 convention next July at Des Moines, Iowa.

Bill and Marie Albaugh of Camden, N .J., were named Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput and Nancy Vick of Chicago and Dale Paullin of Marshalltown, Iowa, began their reign as Queen and King of LPA.

During the afternoon, the group toured Biltmore Estate.

And after the inaugural ball, their own politicking out of the way, LPA members prepared for a luncheon address Thursday by Gov. Terry Sanford, the final event in a gathering that will take convention-hardened Asheville a long time to forget.

Asbury College

The WORLD TODAY

Compiled From Press Dispatches

Foreign

A **RELIGIOUS SECT** in Russia whose members emerged at night to worship Christ and pass out anti-Communist literature has been broken up and its leaders sent to Siberia for forced labor. The Moscow Literary Gazette said dozens of young people had been recruited into the "True Orthodox Wandering Christians," an organization which took refuge by day in hidden basements.

BRITAIN is withdrawing

a series of drawings. A total of $3,000,000 in tickets will have been sold by Friday. A drawing on tickets sold between May 29 and July 8 will be held at Rockingham Park July 29 and 30.

JEFFREY C. BAUER, 17, of Boulder, Colo., and Timothy J. Battaglia, 17, Belleville, Ill., were elected president and vice president, respectively, of the American Legion's 1964 Boys' Nation. The sessions, attended by 98 boys, are being held at the University of Maryland.

THE ONCE PROUD 15-story Coronado Hotel in St. Louis which feted celebrities such as Col. Charles A. Lindbergh and Queen Marie of Roumania closed its doors until a financial angel could be found to bail it out of its money troubles. Remaining permanent guests frantically searched for new lodgings.

LEE KITCHENS, of Richardson, an undersized Texan, was chosen for the big job of president of the Little People of America. Members of the organization may be no taller than 4 feet 10 inches. Motto

Tribune Photo by Thomas DeFeo

CLIMB FOR WATER—Sandra Kitchens 3, a "little little," uses one of the step-ladders placed at drinking fountains and counters at Hotel Kirkwood for the national Little People of America convention there this week. Sandra and her 7-year-old brother Alan are the adopted children of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Tex., delegates to the convention. "Little littles" are children who will not grow larger than the organization's height limit for members of four feet 10 inches tall. Sandra's mother is chairman of an accelerated adoption program sponsored by the organization as a go-between for little people and adoption agencies.

Links Little Folks' Woe To Others

A little person's main psychological problem is not his awareness of his own size, a psychologist told the Little People of America convention Wednesday morning at Hotel Kirkwood.

SMITH

"The problem is getting persons of average size to forget the difference," said Dr. Jackson Smith of Chicago, clinical director of the Illinois State Psychological Institute.

This is just a variation of the problem persons of all sizes face, Dr. Smith said.

"A Mask"

"Every man wears a mask, representing the way he wants to appear to other people. Unhappiness occurs when a person is made to realize the difference between the mask and what he is really like," Dr. Smith explained.

In this sense, little people are like ministers, Dr. Smith said. The public determines the kind of mask a minister wears and demands that it never be removed.

"The closer a man is to the mask he wears, the better off he is psychologically," Dr. Smith said.

"If you ask a person what he is, he can't tell you usually, unless he has spent time in a hospital discussing it.

"If a person finds that he is better than his concept of himself, he feels good. If it seems that he has fallen below his concept, he feels bad."

Dress, Talk

The indications of a person's concept of himself are his style of dress, the way he talks, and the subjects he likes to talk about, Dr. Smith said.

The fifth annual Little People convention will end Thursday. In Tuesday's meeting it was decided that the 1964 meeting will be at Phoenix, Ariz.

Earl M. Warr of Goodyear, Ariz., was appointed 1964 convention chairman by President Bob Brower of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Little People Make Contribution to Church, Community

Lee Kitchens stands 4 feet 1 inch tall, but he is not a little man. By any test of spiritual, social and psychological adjustment, and economic success, he is taller than many who stand six feet high.

Born of normal sized parents, Lee grew up in Boulevard Methodist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and for the first few years was not aware that there was any difference between him and his friends. But as the years stretched out and his legs didn't, young Lee began to sense a difference. He realized he was not a normal sized person.

"Any person who is different", says Lee, "has trouble adjusting to it himself and in adjusting to society. In addition to one's own inner difficulty, society adds to the problem."

Lee is quick to note that society does not necessarily mean to make the handicapped person's load heavier. People just tend to be overprotective. To an abnormally small person they often say, "You're too little to help here, or you are too small to hold this job." Or, as Lee began to notice along about the 8th grade, a little person just begins to feel he does not fit.

But Lee Kitchens and his wife, Mary, who stands a slight 3' 11" have both made an enviable adjustment not matched by many whose problems are less severe.

Spiritual Victory

The Kitchens' spiritual victory is undeniable. Neither of them show any sense of pity for themselves or rancor toward their fate or their God. To their own credit and to the credit of the Christian fellowship, Lee and Mary have made their way into places of leadership in Preston Hollow Methodist Church in Dallas.

Rev. Fred Adams, pastor of the church reports they are not only faithful in worship and busy in the activities of the church, but the members are hardly aware that they stand from 12 to 24 inches shorter than most adult members of the congregation.

Family portrait of Lee and Mary Kitchens and Alan, 8, and Sandra, age 4.

Interesting Methodists Of Texas

Lee and Mary are members of the Co-Wed Sunday School Class and Mary is a member of the W.S.C.S., while Lee is active in the Methodist Men. He is also a member of the official board and has served as chairman of the Commission on Missions.

Their psychological and social adjustment is as remarkable as their spiritual victory. Sound mental health requires that you recognize you are different and adjust to that fact. There is no hush-hush attitude about their short stature in the Kitchens household.

Leads National Organization

These two unusual Methodists call themselves "Little People" and both are proud of Lee's election as president of the "Little People of America." The purpose of the organization is to gather Little People together to create an understanding of their mutual problems and help them adjust to society.

Lee enthusiastically describes the organization and work of LPA. LPA began in 1958 when 20 persons and Bill Barty, a well-known show personality who is himself a Little Person, put together a mailing list. Their purpose was to contact Little People and make themselves available for whatever service they could give.

In 1960, Ralph Edwards of "This Is Your Life" fame gave the movement a big lift when he featured Billy Barty on his TV program. As a result of that meeting in 1958 and the publicity given by Ralph Edwards, a national organization came into being with Billy Barty as its first president.

Annual conventions have been held each year since 1960. The 1965 convention is scheduled for Gloucester, New Jersey. During the 1960 convention, Lee and Mary aligned themselves with the newly organized group. In July, 1964 Lee was elected president. LPA now has 14 regional districts. On the mailing list are 1250 of the estimated 7500 Little People in America.

LPA, Lee points out, is the only organization in America in which Little People can share common problems and seek solutions. It also offers an outlet for service. The father of two adopted children, Lee is dedicated to the organization as a benefit to the child.

Little People's Children

The children who are small are called "Little Littles". Parents of Little Littles often need someone to talk to about problems arising in the rearing of their children. For example, a child of 9 or 10 may sense his smallness in comparison to other children in school or Sunday School. Teen-agers have problems of friendship and courtship. LPA gives their parents an opportunity to share solutions each have found. Recently they have organized an auxiliary for normal sized parents who have Little Littles.

Assistance in research is another practical program for LPA. LPA members are offering themselves as "guinea pigs" through the interest of Dr. Leonard O. Langer, a radiologist in the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. Dr. Langer became interested in the study of dwarfism (not all Little People are dwarfs) because one of his children is a Little Little. He contacted LPA and the organization quickly agreed to assist him in his research.

Adoption services have become an important part of LPA, according to President Lee Kitchens. It has sought to discover Little Littles needing to be adopted and put them in contact with members who are seeking children. This is done only through recognized agencies.

Employment of Little People

Employment assistance is also a vital part of the LPA program. Many jobs are closed to Little People, but many could be made available to them if employers knew their ability and availability, or Little People knew where or how to look for employment. For a long while, Little People have been in show business.

Recreation with people of their own size opens new vistas of fun and fellowship often denied even in the most friendly social and religious gatherings of normal sized people. LPA, particularly at its conventions, provides an opportunity for happy times together with people of our own size, Lee points out.

Business Success

Material success plays a part in every normal American's life and Lee Kitchens is no exception. The 4th president of LPA lives with his family in a new contemporary brick home at 938 Blue Lake Circle in surburban Richardson, Texas. The 8 room artistically designed home is itself a silent symbol of Lee's vocational success.

As a student in Southern Methodist University's co-operative engineering program which combines class room experience with employment in a local industry, Lee was employed by Texas Instruments, Inc. Today he is head of Technical Services Engineering of the Power Department.

The Kitchens' recently built home has been carefully designed to meet their special needs. Upon entering, a visitor does not sense any particular difference from a home for normal sized people. But the Kitchens will gladly take a visitor on a tour of the house and point out how it has been designed for their convenience without destroying its marketability.

Two-Car Family

Outside two cars sit in the circle drive. They are equipped with simple extensions for brake and accelerator pedals. A specially designed seat sits snugly in the regular seat and provides back support and compensates for their small stature.

With no hint of self-consciousness, Lee and Mary willingly explain and demonstrate the many physical adjustments they have incorporated into their home to make for comfortable living.

The family life of the Kitchens goes on at normal pace. Sandra, age 4, and Alan, age 8, adjust in their own way to the life they already realize is destined to be different from others. Fortunately for them, they have parents who have helped to make life happy and normal as those of the children around them. The other children in the block play with Sandra and Alan as with any other children. They enjoy visiting the Kitchens home and if they sense any difference between the Kitchens and their parents, they have not shown it.

One interesting point, Little Sandra seeks to compensate for an area of life that is different for her. Whereas another child might desire cookies, candy or pennies from a visitor, Sandra begs to be picked up. Undoubtedly, she sees other little children picked up by their parents and does not fully understand that hers are too little to hoist her onto their hip or shoulders.

Both Lee and Mary readily admit that solving the problem of marital happiness has helped many other problems fall into place. Little People seldom grow up with other Little People, and they soon realize that marriage may well escape them. Lee points out that marriages between Little People and normal-sized people are the exception rather than the rule, and sometimes do not work out.

College Courtship

It was, therefore, a lucky day when one of Lee's SMU classmates arranged a blind date with the then Mary Perryman, a fine arts student at Texas Women's University. Mary grew up in Lubbock, Texas, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Perryman. Mr. Perryman is a teacher at Texas Tech., consequently, she had lived with normal size people all her life.

Mary recalls she had never met another Little Person and when she met Lee for the first time, it was an emotional shock. She was glad when the first date was over and she was not sure she wanted to see him again. But soon they were going steady. They were married at St. John's Methodist Church in Lubbock on July 31, 1955.

Lee and Mary moved into their new home in February, 1963. It was more than a token of their economic success and social adjustment. Its careful design, thoughtfully planned for comfort and pleasure is a monument to the providence of God which brought Lee and Mary together, and gave them the fulfillment of a genuine love and the happiness of a normal family life.

Even the children can help in this specially designed house furnished with low, out-of-stock contemporary pieces.

Houston Post
FRONT PAGE

CHRONICLE July 22, 1964

GOAL: 'TALL' 5 FEET

4-Foot Girl, 17, Pins Hopes on New Hormone

Photo by Richard Pipes, Chronicle Staff

JEAN MUNNERLYN SUBJECT OF GROWTH RESEARCH
Someday She May Reach Normal Size

BY MOSELLE BOLAND
Chronicle Reporter

At 17, Jean Munnerlyn is four feet tall—the size of an average 7-year-old.

Her voice has the high hit of the small child. She still has her baby teeth.

Jean, a high school senior in Beaumont, suffers from a rare disorder.

Her pituitary gland—the master gland of the body—does not produce the vital hormone which stimulates growth.

This also causes a deficiency in amount of other hormones produced by other body glands, hormones necessary for sexual maturity.

But bright, lively Jean is starting to adjust her thinking to the "tall world."

Discovered at 7

Ten years ago, when it first was discovered that she had the disorder, there was nothing to be done. The growth hormone simply was not available. But medical science now has caught up with her problem.

Jean is spending seven weeks in Methodist Hospital's Moody research unit. Baylor University college of medicine doctors are studying the way her body uses calcium with and without growth hormone.

The hormone must be extracted from the human pituitary gland, and has been in extremely short supply. The Baylor doctors said it takes about 200 such glands to treat one person a year.

Growth Is Slowed

"People with this hormone deficiency grow some," the doctors explained. "But normal children grow two inches a year. One of these children grows one-half to one inch a year."

And, when a normal child reaches adolescence, the sex hormones cause him to grow rapidly for a time, but also

(See HORMONE, Page 25)

Hormone Offers Girl New Life

FROM PAGE 1

causes the bones to mature so they do not grow any more.

The person with this type of dwarfism will continue to grow a little bit each year, even until they are 50 or 60 years old. This is the only one of the causes of dwarfism which can be treated effectively.

Untreated, however, they never become adolescents, the doctors said.

Jean is being given the growth hormone in injections every other day. She then will be given sex hormones to provide her last growing spurt.

She will wind up a little over five feet tall, the doctors said.

Opens New Vistas

The possibility that she now will be of normal height and maturity has had quite an impact on Jean.

"Until now, I always have had to consider a career where height would not be a handicap. Now, I don't have to any more, and I've got to think about it all over again."

She plans to go to college after she completes high school.

"And, just think, I'll have to get a new wardrobe every year," she added.

She also will be able to take up such activities as dancing and swimming, which she formerly could not participate in.

"It's going to take a lot of adjusting," she said. "I've always lived in a small world. Now I'm going to have to get used to the tall world."

Now on Diet

Because the doctors seek information about how her body converts the food it gets into various needed products, she must stay on a strictly controlled diet for the entire study.

She chose her menu when she went into the hospital: Cereal, orange juice, milk and a half piece of toast for breakfast; ground steak, mashed potatoes, milk and sliced pineapple for lunch; chicken, rice, corn, milk, and apple sauce for dinner.

She eats these same meals every day for seven weeks.

The doctors hope to get a better idea of how growth hormone works from their studies.

Our Midget Reporter Gets His

By JOSEPH CASSIDY

A 98-pound professional strong man who sports a Mohawk topknot and speaks with a French-Canadian accent spent yesterday searching the city for parking space for the 50-foot trailer he and three midget friends call home.

He settled for four parking meters on the east side of Second Ave., near 83d St., yesterday. But the rent — four dimes an hour between 10 A.M. and 8 P.M. —has put a strain on the midgets' midget budget and the Lilliputs are loking toward the suburbs for a place to set up their mobile homestead.

On Global Tour

Spokesman for the little group is Lionel (Li'l Beaver) Giroux, who wears a white buckskin shirt and trousers over his 48-inch torso when not actively engaged in the grunt-and-groan game.

Giroux, who claims the presidency of the 34-member Canadian Midget Association, said he is on an "around the world" tour seeking global recognition for his north-of-the-border organization of little people.

Comforts of Home

Giroux said he and his friends are from Montreal and are on their way to Washington before heading toward South America. "We've got all the comforts of home in our five room apartment on wheels but we need electricity and water connections," he added.

Also living in the trailer's five rooms are Rita Labrosse who's just 3 feet tall, and her fiancee Pee Wee James who tips the Fairbanks at 105 pounds. Completing the strange menage is Real Strong, who at 22 is the youngest of the quartet and also the biggest, standing 49 inches high.

THE NEWS sent one of its "heavy" men to cover the group's arrival and skeptic that he was, the reporter got involved in a catch-as-catch-can grappling session with Li'l Beaver. The event had a 30-second time limit set for the benefit of the newsman whose wrestling has been limited to getting on his socks each morning.

Spotting his opponent only a little over 200 pounds, Li'l Beaver immediately attached a bone-wrenching Indian leg lock on the newman whose shouts attracted a group of kids from a nearby grammar school.

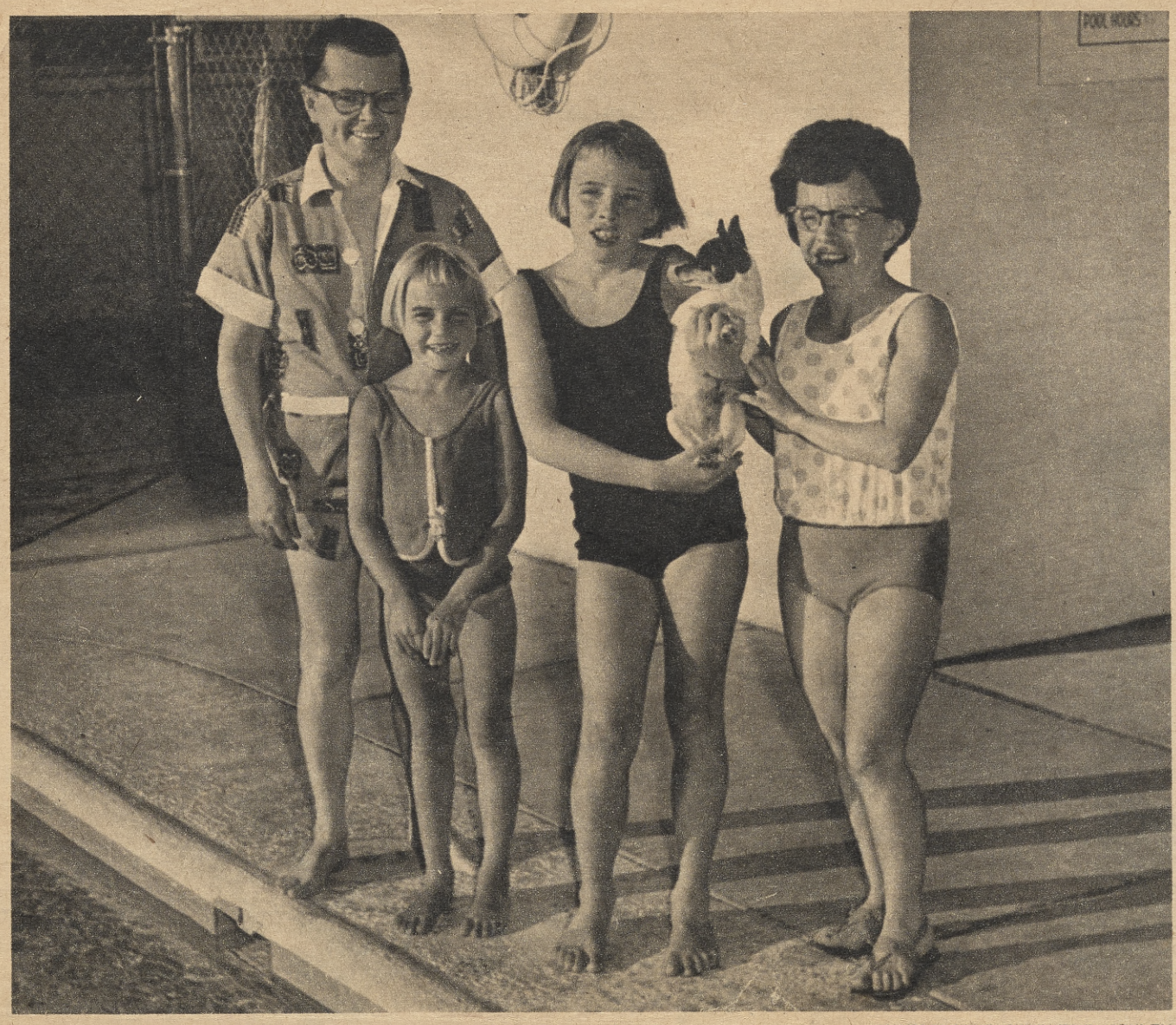
Although he certainly didn't need it, Giroux found himself aided by a half-dozen of the schoolboys who disarmed the reporter of his ball-pen and chased him down Second Ave. Li'l Beaver rewarded them with his autograph leaving the reporter wondering why he got out of bed yesterday morning.

(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

Lil Beaver Giroux applies Indian lock to Gorgeous Joe Cassidy who seems to feel someone's pulling his leg.

DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY 10/29/64

word by Bruce Catton



'Don't Call Us Cute'

by Esther Clark

Poolside at their Scottsdale apartment are the Bob Brower family. Adopted daughters are 5-year-old Cathy, left, and Vicky, 9. Brower, comptroller at Smitty's Big Town, Scottsdale, is president of Little People of America, Inc., formed in 1955 by actor Billy Barty.

PHOTOGRAPHS, CHARLES R. CONLEY

Clarence Hughes can work in a 15-inch-diameter pipe to seal joints.

Everything Is Looking Up For Little People Who Will Gather Here For National Convention

THE 5-7½ VISITOR stood in the center of the living room and had the sensation of being in another world.

Not from the surroundings, however, for furniture and room dimensions were normal. It was the people standing and sitting in a circle.

Not one of the 14 was taller than 4 feet, 10 inches.

BUT, YES, THERE was one. When he arose to acknowledge an introduction to the guest, he loomed a grand 5-8.

"How do you do, and please meet my wife," said Furl Waddell. A pretty, white-haired woman, 53 inches high, smiled a welcome.

The guest, becoming less discomfited by unfeigned friendlines, then met the other members of the club, officially known as Little People of America, Inc., Phoenix Chapter.

"OUR TWO GIRLS, who are adopted and normal size, will be coming in soon and we want you to meet them," said Bob Brower of Scottsdale. He is national president, whose 4 feet, 10 inches just get him under the membership wire for the association's maximum height.

Mrs. Brower, 2 inches over 4 feet, bustled about the room in white blouse and shorts. The rose-colored nail polish on toes of her doll-like feet twinkled as she flitted from one group to another, talking about the national convention July 19-23 at the Phoenix HiwayHouse.

Interrupting a chat on the convention fashion show she was having with Mrs. Danny Taylor, 3 feet, 9, Mrs. Brower held out a hand to sun-tanned daughter Cathy, 5, already almost as tall as her mother. A few minutes later, hazel-eyed Vicki, 9, came charging in, stooping to get a kiss and hug from mom.

"DO WE HAVE SMALL children just because we're small, you ask?" repeated 61-inch-tall Taylor from a stairway perch.

continued

Little People

from page 7

The Goodwill Industries TV-radio repairman hurried along with "It's something glandular that makes us small, but that doesn't necesarily mean our children will be. It's the same with half-pints, as with grownups, as to whether we have any at all."

His wife, Donna, nodded agreement from the depths of an upholstered chair whose seat front her feet failed to reach.

LIKE ALL THE FURNITURE, the chair is standard size—"to accommodate our many normal size friends," Brower explained.

"We have some housekeeping habits like some big ladies," interjected Mrs. Taylor. "When we're going to have big guests, we use stepladders to clean dust from the top shelves. We seldom see it because we keep our everyday dishes on bottom shelves."

The Little Person in the chair next to her, Mrs. Maurice Alden, smiled as she said, "We couldn't get along without stools and stepladders. I carried a stool all through high school in New Hampshire."

MRS. ALDEN, A BUSINESS college graduate, is a bride of eight months. She and her husband, a precision mechanic at Motorola, met at a Little People's national convention in Las Vegas, Nev., in 1960.

"That wedding reception was really something," laughingly reminded Norman Brock. "We did whoop it up."

Brock and wife Etta, married 41 years, are retired show business performers and dance instructors. They have two daughters and five grandchil-

Mr. and Mrs. Furl Waddell enjoy trailer house living.

Had two rises from this one

One in Texarkana and one from Shreveport, We are trying to beat Dallas, though we do not have that many people to work with. We have something new cooking down here, and if it all works out just right we going to Invite you Members in Dallas to come to Hooks, and meet your NEW Members pretty soon.

Had a little Static in Oklahoma City, but I got one New Member, and she is going after them there.

She is another Little cutie. Had another nice letter from Melinda Barker.

Can not hear from Sue Burton, talked to hear over the phone when I was in west Texas, and she promised to write, but no word yet. Have found Two Little Men and one Little Lady in Oklahoma City in the last week, may hear from them. lee w.

TEXARKANA GAZETTE, TEXARKANA, U.S.A.— SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1965

Little People Have Convention in Hooks

HOOKS, Texas — (Special) — They call themselves the little people.

It's an apt term for the midgets, dwarfs, those so afflicted, if affliction is the correct term for pint-sized bundles of determination who have come face to face with a man-sized handicap and stared it down to no more than a nuisance.

Nine members of the Little People of America met for an area meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wright of Hooks.

Wright is chairman of District 8, in Texas and Louisiana. He is temporary chairman for Arkansas and Oklahoma. He is 4 feet tall, and is a retired cleaning establishment proprietor. His wife, Annie, 4'7", teaches junior high English at Hooks High School.

Their guests included Miss Glenn Skelton, 4 feet, secretary for the Vocational Rehabilitation District Office, Sherman, Texas; Mrs. Retha Gillentine, 4'6", housewife and mother, Longview; Miss Jackie Hester, 4' secretary for Transport Clearings, Dallas; George Cromwell, 4'4", construction electrician, Fort Worth; Mrs. Malissa Douglass, 4'8", artist, Hooks; Otto Douglass, 4'8½", barber and TV and radio repairman, Hooks; and George Holliday, 4'9", TV technician, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Little People of America got its start in 1957 through the efforts of Billy Barty, 3'6", and a friend. Barty is best known for his role on Peter Gunn. He was also the little clown with the Spike Jones Band. Today he is the editor of the LPA newsletter.

Barty credits Art Linkletter with giving his idea its first big break. In 1957, Barty made an appeal to little people and attracted 21 to the first convention, held in Reno, Nevada. These 21 little people represented nine states and recalled every little person they could remember, and from that convention came a mailing list that served as the foundation for the present organization.

LPA's next break came when Barty was guest of honor on the "This Is Your Life" television show. As a reslt, he received a letter from a couple in Texas inquiring about the organization. He replied with a very cool, reserved note, "to make sure they were really interested in LPA."

The people Barty was so skeptical about were Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Texas. Kitchens is now the national president of the organization. Both men still look back on the incident and laugh.

From 1957 to 1960, LPA suffered a drought. Then it held another convention in Las Vegas. It was at this conclave that a constitution was drawn up and the name Little People of

Wright said the public associates midgets and dwarfs with circuses or show business. He said there was a time when most went into show business because that was the place in which society thought they belonged.

Today this is the exception rather than the rule, with only about 6 per cent of the organization's 650 active members still in show business.

Wright emphasized the fact that LPA does not endorse show business in any form.

"Little people are in almost all the professions," Otto Douglass of Hooks said, citing as examples dentists, doctors, chemists, teachers, lawyers, artists, barbers, engineers, bankers, and salesmen.

"We have every occupation but basketball players," Dr. Robert Spector, a DuPont chemist from Wilmington, Del., has said.

But being a little person also has its advantages. "Once we are introduced to anyone, they very seldom forget us," the president of LPA, Lee Kitchens, was quoted as saying.

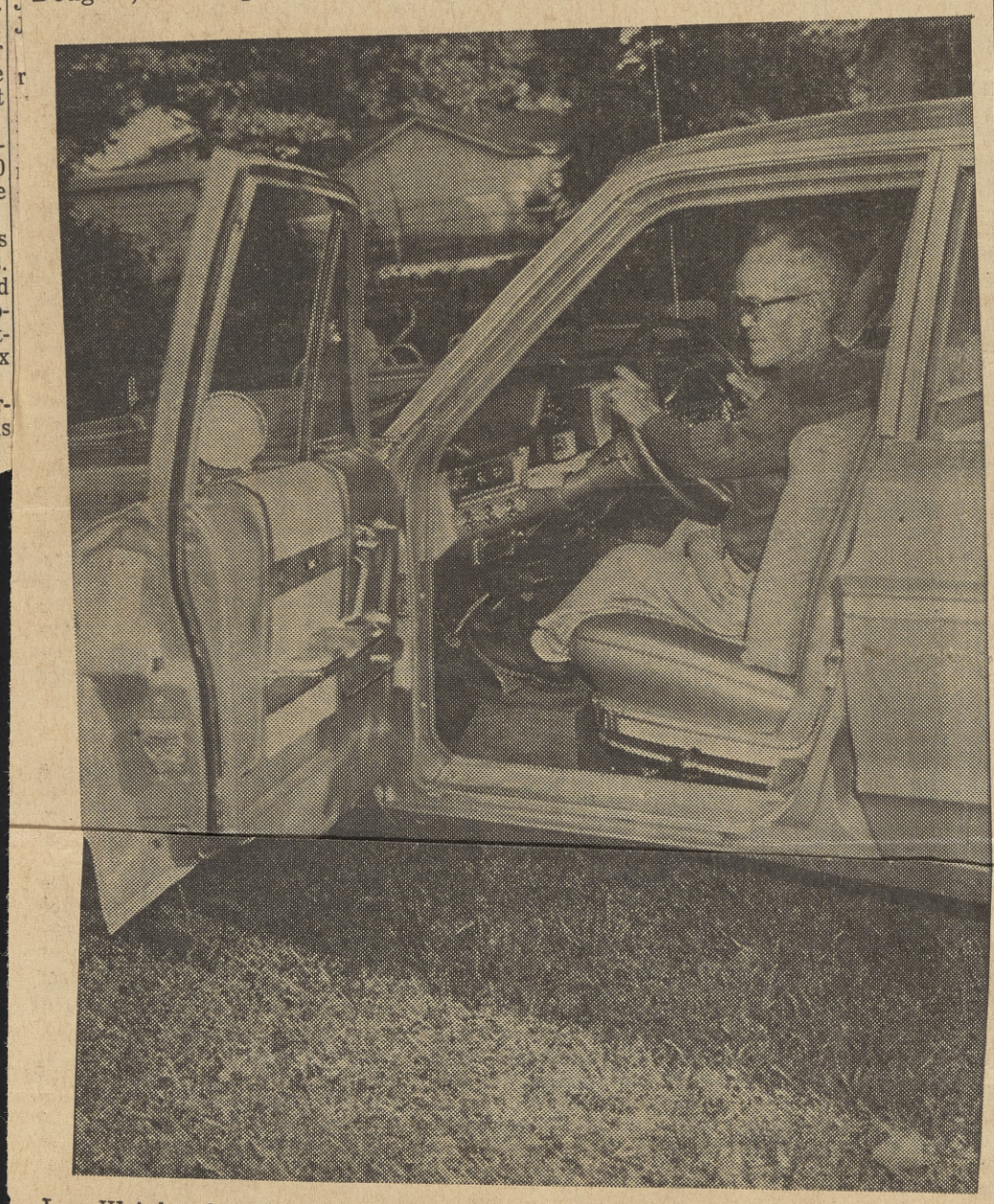
The little people may be small, but they don't want anybody looking down on them. The motto of the organization: "Think Big." What else? Their tallest member cannot tip the by-laws any higher than 4 feet 10 inches.

Wright said that LPA now estimates there are between 5,000 and 7,500 little people in the United States.

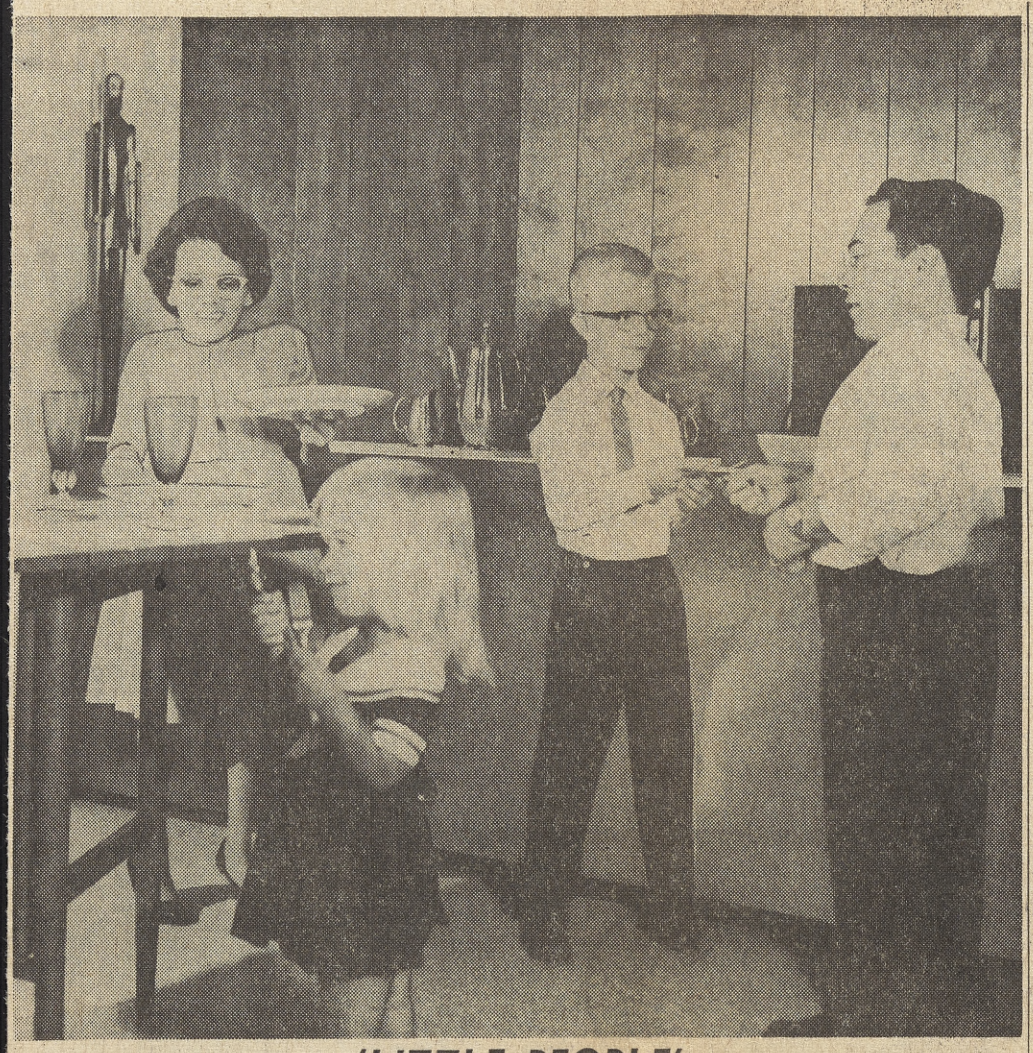
His organization is always seeking to add new members. Any qualified person interested in becoming a member may obtain more information by writing to Lee Wright, P. O. Box 296, Hooks, Texas 75561.

"So, folks, life isn't necessarily easier if all your problems are little ones."

Pictured above are members of the Little People of America who attended the area meeting in Hooks. Left to right, they are: front row, Lee Wright, district chairman; Miss Glenn Skelton, Mrs. Retha Gillentine, Miss Jackie Hester, and George Cromwell. Back row, Mrs. Malissa Douglas, Otto Douglas, George Holliday, and Mrs. Annie Wright.



Lee Wright shows how he handles two tons of automobile with the aid of extended pedals. He has been driving since 19[illegible] 21



'LITTLE PEOPLE'

The Kitchens family numbers among this nation's 5,000 "little people" and theirs is an amazing adjustment to the 6-foot world around them. At home in a new house designed to meet their special needs are, from left, Mary, Sandra, Alan and Lee Kitchens. Furniture in their Richardson home has been lowered to a comfortable height, wall switches and door handles dropped and cabinets and closets specially designed. Mr. Kitchens is president of the Little People of America.

"What would we do without step-ladders?" Miss Jackie Hester of Dallas aids George Cromwell of Fort Worth in reaching a container from a high shelf in the kitchen of Mrs. Annie Wright. "I couldn't cook a meal without that ladder," Mrs. Wright said.

HEADS DWARFS' ORGANIZATION

He Leads 'Little People' In Adjusting to Big World

By TOMMY AYRES
Staff Writer

If you get down on your knees and look up at the world you will be looking at it from the permanent point of view of Lee Kitchens.

Mr. Kitchens, you see, stands only 4-feet-1 in a 6-foot world. He is a dwarf — one of this nation's approximately 5,000 "little people."

He cannot take a casual drink from a public fountain. He cannot easily use a pay telephone. He must tiptoe to see over a bank counter. He has to stretch to reach a normal wall light switch.

Yet, despite it all, Lee Kitchens is not really a little man — not when measured by the yardstick of social and economic success and personal accomplishment.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

He is an electrical engineer at the sprawling Texas Instruments, Inc., complex where he heads a test equipment group.

Last July he was elected president of the Little People of America, which has 1,100 members.

Mr. Kitchens is active in numerous church, civic and social functions. When he finds the time he is an amateur photographer and a stereo fan.

And according to his wife, Mary, Lee is an accomplished weekend craftsman around their specially designed brick home at 938 Blue Lake Circle in Richardson.

Actually, the house itself is a tribute to the thoroughness and determination of the man. Mr. Kitchens, with an architect, planned the contemporary structure for two years before the first nail was driven — designed it to accommodate every special need of a family which includes Mary, who stands 3-feet-11, and their two small adopted children, Alan, 8, and Sandra, 4.

A close check of the almost normal appearing interior reveals lowered light switches and door knobs, legs removed from stock contemporary furniture, chairs large enough to comfortably seat a six-footer, yet, designed for the convenience of their owner.

Outside in a curved driveway are two automobiles equipped with brake and accelerator extensions and special high cushion seats which are removable.

Actually the Kitchens' private and social lives are little different than those of their friends and neighbors.

Mary, an art major at Texas Women's University, keeps house and paints for a hobby. All fit comfortably into the 6-foot society.

TELLS OF AMBITION

In his 34 years Mr. Kitchens has set numerous lofty goals. In most instances he not only reached, but surpassed them.

And his most recent ambition?

"I want to carry the Little People of America message to every little person in the country," he says.

"There are so many little people who live somewhere between two worlds," says Mr. Kitchens.

"LPA gives them something to belong to — a chance to compete on equal terms — a chance to look a man in the eye," said Mr. Kitchens.

"You may not realize it," he said, "But its refreshing to look someone in the eye once in a while."

According to Mr. Kitchens, LPA boasts members from almost every profession.

"These people can serve to in-

See DWARFS on Page 31

★ DWARFS

Continued From Page 27

spire other little people who are perhaps less successful only because they have not learned to adjust to society," Mr. Kitchens said.

He emphasizes that the purpose of LPA is not to isolate little people in any way. Rather, it encourages the small person to live in two worlds — a small world and a normal world.

But Mr. Kitchens notes that society often makes it difficult for the little person to live in the normal world.

"In an attempt to help the little person, people often tend to be overly protective," said Mr. Kitchens. "For example, normal parents with exceptionally small children will try to protect them from the world when they should be helping them adjust to it."

Mr. Kitchens noted that LPA can be of great service to normal parents of "little littles," children who are smaller than normal.

LPA members also are offering themselves for research being conducted by Dr. Leonard O. Langer, a radiologist at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Langer became interested in dwarfism when it was apparent one of his children was a little person. Through research, he is seeking the cause of dwarfism. LPA members have offered their bodies for study by the doctor.

LITTLE PEOPLE TO FORM CLUB

Beaumont Man Heads Drive to Organize Unit Here

BY WARREN WEBER

A little man with some big ideas is spearheading a drive to organize a Little People of America Club here.

Curtis W. Murphy of 2136 Grand, better known as "Little Mickey the Clown", said the purpose of the club, a national organization for people not over four feet 10 inches in height, is to provide fellowship and the exchange of ideas and solutions to the unique problems which little people face.

He emphasized the point that the club is not a lonely hearts organization and does not endorse or encourage any type of show business.

Unique Problems

People of small stature face unique problems that most people take for granted. For example there is the problem of where to buy special clothes and shoes or where to get extensions for automobile floor pedals which they must have to drive a car. The national club acts as a focal point for the dispensing of information which they need.

The national club was organized in 1955 by Billy Barty, the little clown who used to be with the Spike Jones band. The national organization is divided into 14 districts with Texas and Louisiana forming District 8. Lee Wright of Hooks, Tex., serves as district chairman. The president of the national club is another little Texan, Lee Kitchens from Richardson.

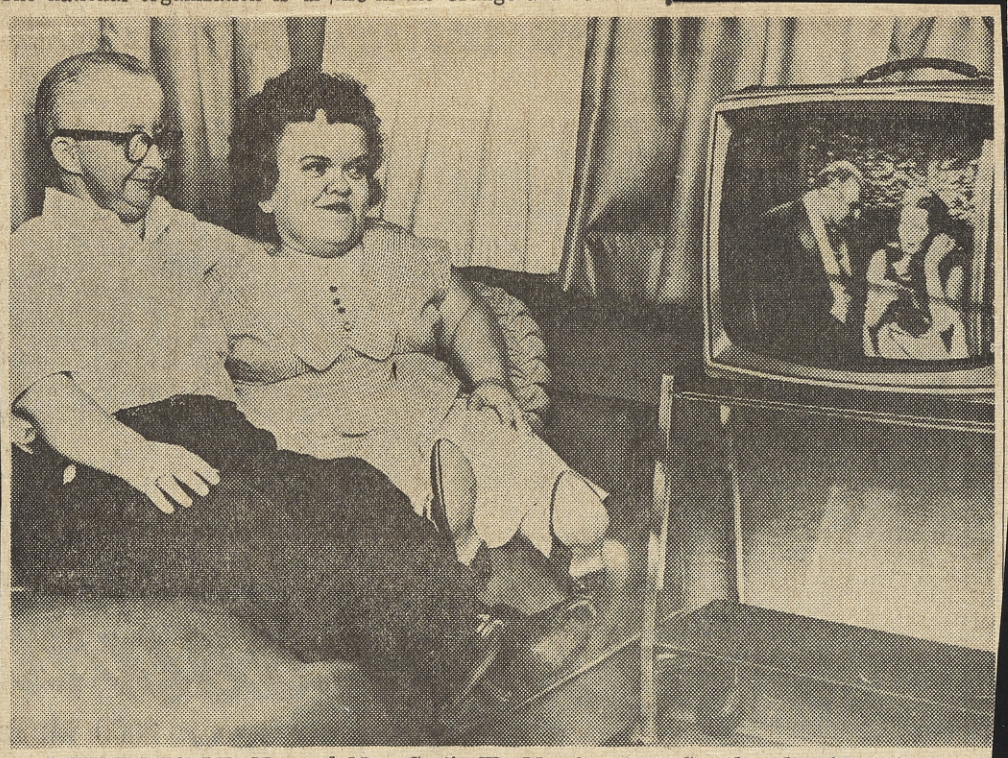
Annual Meet

The little people get together annually at their national convention.

Members from Texas and Louisiana will have a district meeting Aug. 21 at Breckenridge Park in San Antonio.

Murphy said 12 to 15 people in Jefferson are eligible for membership in the club and he hopes to get them organized.

Murphy was born in DeRidder, but has lived most of his life in the Orange and Jefferson.



LITTLE PEOPLE. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis W. Murphy, 2136 Grand, relax in their home. The television set and sofa are normal sized, but most of their other furnishings are custom made for their small size. (Enterprise staff photo by Elmer Trumble)

Leon Hale

Maybe You Saw Shorty In That Tarzan Movie

G. C. (Shorty) Simmans stood in the living room of his home at 205 Archer and held a stick in front of himself, showing he measures exactly 36 inches from the floor to the end of his nose.

"I tell 'em," he said, grinning, "that I'm 3 feet and 4 inches tall, and I am when I stand up straight."

TRAILING THE YARDSTICK, Shorty eased across the room and settled in a little blue chair, about the size of one a man might make for his 5-year-old daughter.

You may remember Shorty if you attended movies at the North Main Theatre any time between 1936 and 1961. He sold popcorn there in the stand next door. He's retired now and the stand is gone.

It's even possible you saw Shorty on television recently, if you stay up late enough on Friday night or get up early enough on Saturday morning to catch the older of the old movies. In the first Tarzan movie that starred Maureen O'Sullivan and Johnny Weissmuller, Simmans was king of the pygmies and had five wives.

BUT NOW HERE HE WAS in his easy chair, talking about what he'd invited me out to hear.

"About 10 years ago," Shorty said, and his voice came deep and strong and well enunciated, "an organization was begun called Little People of America, Inc. Billy Barty—maybe you know of him, he's a dwarf, too, in show business out on the West Coast—Billy had a lot to do with starting it.

"ANYWAY IT'S A NON-PROFIT organization and our goals are to get all these shorties like me acquainted with each other and to show the public that we're people. It's been a wonderful thing.

"In Texas and Louisiana, which is District 8 of the organization, we've got over a hundred dues-paying members. We get together once in awhile, and when you're with other little people it's a great thing. You don't feel like a misfit at all. Just makes you glow.

"YOU KNOW, WE CAN DO anything other people can do, except be tall. And sometimes we figure out ways to do that."

As if to illustrate, he walked over and turned on the overhead lights at a wall switch, adapted with a pull chain so he can reach it.

"What I thought," Simmans said, returning to his chair, "if you write anything about the organization, you could say how other little people can get in touch with our District 8 chairman. He's Lee Wright, and they can write to him at Box 296 at Hooks, Texas. That's up around Texarkana.

"OR THEY CAN CALL ME HERE at UN 4-9529. I'm trying to stir up some local interest. We haven't got but about six members in Houston and I know there's a lot of little people around here. Woods are full of 'em.

"We're trying to persuade the parents of dwarfs and midgets," Simmans went on, "to educate these children. Most of the time they keep 'em at home and protect 'em and that's the wrong thing to do. Why, we've got school teachers in our organization now, and our national president, Lee Kitchens of Richardson, is an electronics engineer. And just a few years ago, we weren't supposed to have any sense at all."

SIMMANS CERTAINLY wasn't protected. He left home after high school sold magazines door to door, became a circus clown, made movies, ran the popcorn stand for 25 years.

"Think big," he said. "That's our organization's motto." Then he grinned again. "Me, I feel 90, think 30, and I'm actually [illegible]"

Little People Seek Others In Sherman

Some of the biggest people you'll ever see are little people when it comes to standing up to be measured with a yardstick. For instance there's Glenn Skelton, a little lady who is a secretary and a fairly newcomer to Sherman.

Glenn is less than four feet, 10 inches tall and, therefore, is qualified to hold membership in a non-profit organization known nation-wide as Little People of America. She hopes to find other little people interested in becoming members.

Glenn is the secretary in the Texas Education Agency's rehabilitation division office at 220 S. Travis. She came to Sherman in June, 1964. Her native home is Hallettsville; Texas. Her home in Sherman is at 523 S. Travis.

Miss Skelton explained that any person four feet, 10 inches or under in height is eligible for membership in Little People. Membership fee is $5 per person or $7.50 for a family of any size. Inquiries may be addressed to her or to Little People's district chairman, Lee Wright of Hooks, Texas. Wright stands four feet high. He is a retired owner-operator of a cleaning and pressing shop.

Little People of America was started in 1957 largely through the efforts of Billy Barty, a three-foot, six-inch actor who once played on the Peter Gunn Show and was a clown with the Spike Jones orchestra. It has 650 members. There are an estimated 5,000 to 7,500 persons of short stature in the U. S., those who are four feet, 10 inches or under.

1965

Little People's World Often Has Problems

By OLIVENE GODFREY

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Boeckel are living proof that a person's height has little, if anything, to do with living a successful, rewarding life.

Mr. Boeckel is four feet, five inches tall. His wife, the former Ruby Brindle, is only three feet, five inches tall. They have owned and operated a grocery store at 2004 S. Dixie Road since 1956. Before coming to Dalton they owned a grocery market in Murray County.

BIG STRETCH FOR LITTLE PEOPLE TO USE TELEPHONE
Albert Boeckel Shows Difficulty in Depositing Money

SHE CAN'T REACH THE SLOT IN THIS MAILBOX
Ruby Boeckel Tries to Mail Letter But Can't Deposit It

Imagine yourself dropping a letter in a seven foot tall mailbox, or trying to get a drink from a six foot tall water fountain. Experiences like these are all part of the everyday world of undersized citizens.

It's been said that midgets usually handle their lives in one of two ways. They withdraw from the world and avoid all contact with people or they refuse to consider themselves handicapped and proceed to live normal lives.

Extrovert

Mr. Boeckel, a congenial extrovert, says he has never been self-conscious about his height. He added that when he first met his wife she was very shy. And Mrs. Boeckel credits her husband with helping her to acquire self-confidence.

Mr. Boeckel is a native of Montana. A mutual friend of the couple was responsible for a year's correspondence between the two little people. During that year the couple wrote letters to each other almost daily. Finally Mr. Boeckel decided to come to Georgia to see tiny Ruby Brindle who was living at that time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brindle, in Murray County.

Mrs. Boeckel recalls that by the time she and her husband actually met in person they already knew that they wanted to spend the rest of their lives together. So, a few days after Mr. Boeckel's arrival in Murray County, they were married. They lived about a year in North Dakota before returning to Georgia.

They have a daughter, Peggy Anne, who is five feet, three inches tall. She is a free-lance carpet designer.

Special Gadgets

Both of the Boeckels drive a car. They have cushions to help them see over the steering wheel and pedal extensions bring accelerator and brake to comfortable operating positions for them.

Their handsome home, located behind their grocery store, has a kitchen scaled to Mrs. Boeckel's height. She said the double sink, the range units and oven are the delight of children who visit them. But, she laughed and said that adults are often frustrated when they want to help her wash dishes. She added that if she could "stand on a stool for years to do the dishes" they should be able to adjust now and then to her sink.

How would a lady who is only three feet, five inches tall make a bed? Well, Mrs. Boeckel climbs up in the middle of their king-sized bed and scoots about the bed until the bedding is neatly in place.

While their furniture is regular size, they do own a couple of children's reclining chairs. Mrs. Boeckel also has low rods in her clothes closets for easy hanging of clothing apparel.

One problem little people share is finding clothing to fit them. Mrs. Boeckel buys children's clothes and shoes. Her husband has his dress suits tailored to fit him.

LP Organization

The Boeckels spend many weekends at their cabin at Lake Cathy. But, their number one outside interest is the Little People of America, a national organization which draws its members from the estimated 5,000 midgets and dwarfs in North America.

For the past four years Mr. Boeckel has served as director of District IV, which includes little people in Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. He will be giving up this job in July but will continue as an active member of the group. He would like for all little people in this district to become LPA members and he urges anyone interested to contact him.

Why do these little people like to get together once a month and what does the LPA offer them? The Boeckels say that its wonderful to meet with people their own size as they have so much in common. They share interests and problems and usually someone is able to come up with an answer or solution to almost every problem.

Romances Develop

The District IV LPA meets each month in various locales. Many romances are born, some resulting in marriages, as a result of the meetings.

Employment is a problem for many little people. Because of their size many of them are reluctant to hustle for a job. They can't compete at all in the heavy-labor field. Many find success as artists, builders, salesmen, engineers, teachers, lawyers, and entertainers. But much of business and industry is still reluctant to hire them.

The LPA has formed an employment clearing house through which the nation's scattered little people report job openings that other undersized men and women can fill.

The LPA has a scholarship fund and an adoption agency through which dwarfed children have been taken from orphanages to live with foster parents of both midget and normal heights.

Most little people refuse to use the word "problem." As Mr. Boeckel said, their size is often annoying or inconvenient, but most of them learn early in life that most obstacles can be overcome.

'Little People' Meeting Here

By BILL BAILEY

A little fellow from Texas brought some giant-sized philosophy to Baton Rouge today.

Lee Kitchens, who stands four feet, one inch tall and has encountered his share of nusiances in his 35 years, said he is now spending a lot of time trying to explain that "minority groups should adjust to society and not expect society to adjust to them."

Kitchens, president of Little People of America Inc., was here to attend the two-day District 8 Convention of the organization which is composed of people under four feet, 10 inches tall.

"We can't, for instance, expect the nation to lower all the water fountains as a benefit to a few," Kitchens said.

And with this kind of thinking, the organization seeks to assist its members by an exchange of views and ideas that will help them to overcome what Kitchens calls "the nusiances of everyday life."

Members of the organization from Texas and Louisiana gathered at the Jack Tar Capitol House for the bi-state convention scheduled to begin this afternoon.

The program is informal with much emphasis placed on the social aspect of the gathering.

Today's session marks the first time the organization has met in Louisiana since it was chartered in 1960.

The national organization was chartered mainly through the efforts of Billy Barty, television personality, who today is one of the few members in show business.

There was a time, Kitchens said, when most midgets and (Continued on Page 5-A, Col. 6)

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT — Lee Kitchens (right) president of the Little People of America Inc., is interviewed by State-Times reporter Bill Bailey prior to opening of Little People's convention at the Jack Tar Capitol House today. Among other things Bailey, at six feet, four inches, and Kitchens, at four feet, one inch, shared respective problems in finding clothes to fit — although for different reasons. —Photo by Ken Armstrong

LITTLE PEOPLE CONFERENCE — Lee Wright (left) Hooks, Texas, makes notes during discussion at Little People of America district meeting here today. Others in photo are Betty Anderson, San Antonio, Texas, Elaine M. McCoy, Eunice, and Lee Landry, a school teacher from Napoleonville. Wright is chairman of the Louisiana-Texas district of the national organization. Elaine, whose parents are of normal height, is a member while her parents are associate members.

—Photo by Ken Armstrong

'Little People' Meet

(Continued From Page 1)

dwarfs went into show business because that is the place in which society thought they belonged.

Today this is the exception rather than the rule with only five of the organization's 400 active members still in show business.

An Engineer

Kitchens, a resident of Richardson, Texas, is an electrical engineer. The chairman of the Louisiana-Texas district, Lee Wright of Hooks, Texas, is a retired dry cleaning establishment proprietor.

Other members are in the teaching, clerical and other professions as well as some holding laboring jobs.

One of the big accomplishments in which the organization has participated, Kitchens said, is the development of a set of extensions for automobile controls which are manufactured by one of its members.

For $35 any little person can now order these extension to enable him or her to drive an auto as would a person of normal height.

Kitchens explained that while as an engineer he could devise "just about anything I ever needed," this was not the case of, for instance, single ladies who could not find a mechanic who would take the time and have the patience to develop extension mechanisms for their autos.

Kitchens also told of rebuilding counters, etc. in the kitchen of his home to make them convenient.

Little people also run into problems of clothing, employment and in the field of transportation, he said.

Kitchens said his organization now estimates there are between 5,000 and 7,500 eligible little people in the U.S.

His organization has a mailing list of about 1,600 and is always seeking to add new names.

This article was Given to me by Charlie Richardson of Winslow Indiana. The paper is very current for me. (cheese) I'm sending this along to share you + your Group that even. "Big" people have an intrest in L.P.A. Especially my associates now that I have an intrest generated by my friends who have proven to me, that size isn't what makes the person Big or little. It's a small world after all, isn't it? I think so now!

'Little People' Take Back Seat to None

FAMILY OF "LITTLE PEOPLE," is the Kitchens, of Richardson, Tex. Preparing for a snack in the kitchen of their home are father Lee, 4 feet, his wife Mary, 3'11" and their adopted children Alan and Sandra.

By CHARLES A. RICHARDS
United Press International

RICHARDSON, Tex. — "Some people with big freckles and red hair think only another fella with big freckles and red hair can understand them," he said, his feet not quite touching the floor as he rocked back and forth.

He worked his way out of the chair and walked across the room. "That's where we come in," he added, then lifted himself onto the sofa and continued.

"We don't really look on ourselves as handicapped. We're different and we realize that. And we know we have to make some compensations to get along, but we don't have to do that at a loss of dignity, self-respect or anything else."

With that, Lee Kitchens, 35, summed up the message he was to offer to anyone who goes through life as a midget or dwarf.

Four Feet Tall

Standing just a shade over four feet tall, Kitchens is a little man in a world dominated by big people. He is president of Little People of America, Inc.

About 400 "little persons" over the United States belong and meet each summer at a week-long convention to visit socially and exchange solutions to the nuisances that plague them.

There is some sensitivity about the labels "midget" and "dwarf," and most prefer to be called "little persons," according to Kitchens. Both categories make up the organization's membership — the midget, who is perfectly proportioned but small, and the dwarf, who has a normal head and body but short legs and arms.

Parents Were Normal

Kitchen is a dwarf. His parents were normal in all respects. His father was about 6 feet 2 inches and there was no history in the family of anyone less than normal height.

He was hired by Texas Instruments, Inc., while he was still attending Southern Methodist University. Now in his 13th year at the firm, he is in charge of more than 20 engineers.

His wife Mary is 3 feet 11 inches tall, a dwarf also and a graduate of Texas Woman's University.

Their children, Sandra, 6, and Alan, 8, were adopted from an adoption agency after X-rays tests and other examinations showed they would be dwarfs, like their parents. The family lives in this Dallas suburb.

Denies Great Problems

Kitchens denies that little people have any great problems.

"Just nuisances we have to learn to put up with," he said. But he cited three crucial periods in life for little people. The organization urges teenagers to compensate for their inability to compete in sports by concentrating in other areas in which they can excel. They can participate in bowling or golf or any sport which doesn't require running.

Kitchens lettered four years in high school football by playing the role of trainer and manager.

Knock off Chip

The first chore in rehabilitating a little adult often is to knock a chip off his shoulder. "But they can have a successful adult life like anyone else," Kitchens said. "And that's where other little people like us can help them."

If just one letter of inquiry a month is received at Box 126, Owatonna, Minn., the organization feels that month is a success.

A common misconception is to think of the little person as able to get a job only in a circus or show business.

"Just name an occupation and 99 times out of a hundred I can give you the name of a little person doing that work," Kitchen said.

Clothes and Transportation

Clothes and transportation rate the most troublesome day-to-day problems.

Clothes are either bought and then altered or custom made.

Both kitchens and his wife have cars. That's made possible by a cushion to bring their eye level above the steering wheel and extensions on both the accelerator and brake.

The next LPA convention is the third week of July at Gloucester City, N.J., and the organization hopes the 1,600 little persons it's aware of will attend.

"It's a good equalizer," said Mary Kitchens. "A fella is used to standing out in a crowd. Stick him in an LPA convention and he's just one of a hundred. He has to stand on his own merits. Size doesn't mean a thing."

Besides, added Lee, who has a height advantage over many little persons, "it's kinda good to be tall for awhile."

E HOUSTON CHRONICLE Sunday, April 18, 1965 Section 1, Page 19 Newspaper

'No Big Problems'

These Little People Grow in Confidence

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Little Man

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"Just Nuisances"

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First Chore

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Both Have Cars

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Kitchens and his wife have cars. A cushion brings the eye level above the steering wheel and extensions let them reach the accelerator and brake.

Their next convention is in July at Gloucester City, N.J. The organization hopes that the 1600 little persons it is aware of will attend.

"It's a good equalizer," said Mary Kitchens. "A fella is used to standing out in a crowd. Stick him in an LPA convention and he's just one of a hundred. He has to stand on his own merits. Size doesn't mean a thing."

Besides, added Lee, who has a height advantage over many little persons, "it's kinda good to be tall for awhile."

UPI Telephoto

The Kitchens get set for a snack in their home at Richardson. They are the father, Lee, his wife, Mary, and their adopted children, Alan, 8, and Sandra, 6.

Romania Commies To Hold Congress

Bucharest (AP) — Romania's ruling Communist party will hold its fourth congress July 19, the Central Committee announced. The new first secretary, Nicolae Ceausecu, successor to the late Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, will be keynoter.

SNACK — The Kitchens, a family of "little people," have a snack in their home in Richardson, Tex. They are: father Lee, 35; mother Mary, and their children, Alan, 8 and Sandra, 6.

FOUR FEET TALL

San Jose Mercury-News Sunday, April 18, 1965 17

What It's Like To Live In World Of Little People

By CHARLES A. RICHARDS

RICHARDSON, Tex. (UPI)— "Some people with big freckles and red hair think only another fella with big freckles and red hair can understand them," he said, his feet not quite touching the floor as he rocked back and forth.

He worked his way out of the chair and walked across the room. "That's where we come in," he added, then lifted himself onto the sofa and continued.

"We don't really look on ourselves as handicapped. We're different and we realize that. And we know we have to make some compensations to get along, but we don't have to do that at a loss of dignity, self respect or anything else."

With that, Lee Kitchens, 35, summed up the message he has to offer to anyone who goes through life as a midget or dwarf.

Standing just a shade over four feet tall, Kitchens is a little man in a world dominated by big people. He is president of Little People of America, Inc. (LPA).

About 400 "little persons" over the United States belong and meet each summer at a week-long convention to visit socially and exchange solutions to the nuisances that plague them.

There is some sensitivity about the labels "midget" and "dwarf and most prefer to be called "little persons," according to Kitchens. Both categories make up the organization's membership—the midget, who is perfectly proportioned but small, and the dwarf, who has a normal head and body but short arms and legs.

Kitchen is a dwarf. His parents were normal in all respects. His father was about 6 feet 2 inches and there was no history in the family of anyone less than normal height.

He was hired by Texas Instruments, Inc., while he was still attending Southern Methodist University. Now in his 13th year at the firm, he is in charge of more than 20 engineers.

His wife Mary is 3 feet 11 inches tall, a dwarf also and a graduate of Texas Woman's University.

Their children, Sandra, 6, and Alan, 8, were adopted from an adoption agency after X-ray tests and other examinations showed they would be dwarfs, like their parents. The family lives in this Dallas suburb.

Kitchens denies that little people have any great problems. "Just nuisances we have to learn to put up with," he said.

But he cited three crucial periods in life for little people.

The organization urges teen-agers to compensate for their inability to compete in sports by concentrating in other areas in which they can excel. They can participate in bowling or golf, or any sport which doesn't require running.

Kitchens lettered four years in high school football by playing the role of trainer and manager.

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Both Kitchens and his wife have cars. That's made possible by a cushion to bring their eye level above the steering wheel and extensions on both the accelerator and brake.

The next LPA convention is the third week of July at Gloucester City, N.J., and the organization hopes the 1,600 little persons it's aware of will attend.

Little People Compensate For Size, Keep Dignity

The Kitchenes, a family of "little people" get set for a snack in their home in Richardson. Father Lee, 35, stands a shade over four feet; his wife Mary is 3'1" and their adopted children are Alan, 8, and Sandra, 6.—UPI.

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Sunday Patriot-News
Harrisburg, Pa., April 18, 1965

'Little' People Revolt

By CHARLES A. RICHARDS

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Page 24—S.F. Examiner
Tuesday, May 18, 1965 5C2H*

The 'Little People' Help Each Other

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'Bigness' Symbol Of 'Little People'

1965

By John Barbour
Advertiser Area Reporter

They call themselves "little people" but after talking with them just a short while, one becomes convinced that "bigness" is definitely a part of their lives.

The Little People of America, Inc., whose members are 4 feet, 10 inches or under, held its district meeting in Lafayette over the weekend. Lee Wright of Hooks, Texas, is the chairman for this district and while he didn't stand much taller than the card table at which he was working when interviewed, he loomed high in the estimation of those about him.

Wright pointed out that the Little People of America was founded by Bill Barty, a television and radio personality back in 1955 but did not become active until 1960. That year, in Las Vegas, Nev., about 100 little people banded together, elected officers and established

(Continued On Page 2, Col. 1).

IF.....

If you need extra cash, why not dig into that treasure chest you have hidden in your basement and attic. Don't kid yourself and take this suggestion lightly, as there happens to be more truth in it than you might think.

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LITTLE PEOPLE — Attending a convention of Little People of America, Inc., in Lafayette was this quartet who are vitally concerned with bringing the organization's message to the public. They are (from left) Lee Wright, chairman, Lee Landry, George Cromwell and Lucille Barras. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

2 Advertiser, Lafayette, La., Monday, May 3, 1965

'Bigness' Symbol

(Continued from page 1)

the 14 districts that cover the United States.

Guidance Needed

"We felt that many little people needed guidance," Hooks said. "Many are often shy, timid and afraid to meet the public. Some of them, unfortunately, have become that way due to their parents who keep them hidden.

"We realize that the little person has to meet the world and must be prepared to do so. We're interested in getting that person ready for his daily responsibilities in this electronic age. We know that we can't do a lot of things with our hands — we have to do them with our minds," he said.

Hooks said that little people are represented in every walk of life and that there is practically no profession that doesn't have a little person as a member.

He was asked if his group opposed the terms "midget" and "Dwarf."

"Definitely yes," he said. "The Term 'midget' designates anything as small and, while 'dwarf' might be used by different people for different meanings, its general connotation is smallness.

"We may be small in stature but we like to think big. That's our motto, 'Think Big.' That's why we like to be referred to as 'Little People' — and intelligent little people at that," he said.

Oppose Show Business

Hooks said that up until about 20 years ago, most little people could only find employment in show business. He said that now there are only about six in any phase of that business. "Show business never was a moral, spiritual or intellectural experience and we do not endorse it in any form," he said.

He said that today, rather than trodding the boards of the stage, the little person is more interested in earning his "mortar board," the headgear designating a college degree. .....

Many of our members are in college or attending universities and they will eventually help other little people — they'll become leaders. Those that don't get an education, that don't try to improve, won't help anybody because they can't help themselves," Hooks said.

While their small stature may appear to present a handicap, Hooks said his organization has worked to satisfy the demands of its members in meeting their needs. For instance, he said there is a member who builds extensions in automobiles so the little persons can drive; there are lists of stores that can supply them with clothing and shoes; and even suppliers that custom-build furniture for them.

"There's no physical problem that can't be overcome by the little person. It's the intellectual phase of their lives that presents problems. They, too, can be overcome by perseverance and hard work," Hooks said.

Miss Lee Landry, a native of Napoleonville now teaching in Marrero, is a little person who has more than made her way in the world. A school teacher, she loves her work — that extra key that determines a person's success.

Little Children To Teach

"Frankly, I think being a little person has its advantages in teaching first graders," she said. "The children may look at me a little strangely the first day but after that, they don't think I am anything unusual. When some of them recite, I even sit at their little desks. They fit me fine."

Miss Landry, an attractive blonde, says her main interest is working with children who are in LPA. "They need so much guidance at their tender age," she said.

George Cromwell, an electrician from Fort Worth, was on hand for the convention and pointed out that he could do most everything else a fully developed man could do on a job. "My main concern now is working for this organization," he said. "I'm doing all I can to get more people interested in our work, to find these little people and to get them to see life as it really exists. Sometimes It's not a case of their needing LPA — we may desperately need them."

Wright pretty well summed up the activities of the group when he said, "We're little people, but we try to be big in the way we think, act and live."

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Little People Find Big World Is Tall Problem

By MARY LOU TEMPLE
Of The Times Staff

"Don't call us cute," is the plea of the little people.

The Little People of America, Inc., an organization of dwarfs and midgets, is for "people who are human beings, just human beings," Lee Wright of Hooks, Tex., District 8 chairman of the Little People, said yesterday.

Wright was attending an area get-together at the Shreveporter Motel to discuss plans with area members for the District 8 convention to be held March 6 and 7 in Baton Rouge.

The little people get together to discuss and help solve each others problems—problems which arise from living in a world built for people twice as big as they are.

Miss Roberta Hengy, area representative for the Little People, Inc., told a Times reporter of some of the problems faced when you are 3 feet, 11 inches tall.

"Many self service elevators have buttons too high to reach," Miss Hengy said, "and pay telephones are far out of our reach."

TEACH

A junior at Centenary College, Miss Hengy plans to go into teaching, specializing in preschool children.

"You have to live in two worlds," Miss Hengy said.

Wright and his wife have a house built to their design with appliances and stairs scaled to their size.

"Kitchens are a big problem," Mrs. Wright said. "You can't reach anything."

Driving a car is also a problem for the little people. Special extensions which attach to the foot pedals are used so they can reach them.

"We also use a lot of pillows," said one member.

Asked the one thing which was most annoying, the 10 members attending the meeting agreed immediately. "Your feet never touch the floor when you sit down anywhere," they said.

At church, in the theater, in school, all the little people said they couldn't sit very long because feet hanging in the air was "so tiring."

The little people want to be treated "just like anyone else," they said, "because we are just like anyone else, except we are smaller."

VARIETY OF JOBS

Little people at yesterday's meeting hold a variety of jobs successfully. Attending the meeting were a beauty operator, an electrician, a deputy county clerk, a school teacher, a secretary and a retired dry cleaner, as well as two students.

"Little people are accountants, bookkeepers, lawyers, watchmakers, draftsmen, engineers, bankers, almost every occupation you can name," Wright said.

"Our general purpose is to provide fellowship and an interchange of ideas, solutions to our unique problems and moral support to each other," he explained.

Wright said the Little People also concentrate on a program for children. "We also give a lot of help to big parents of little people," he said.

"One thing which is wonderful about attending a meeting or a convention is talking to a lot of people face to face at eye level," Wright said. "We usually are looking up all the time."

One member laughed and said, "Yes, when we came back from the convention at Las Vegas attended by several hundred little people, I remember how huge the waiter looked at the first place we stopped on the way back. We had become so used to talking to people our own size during the convention week."

The Little People are interested in meeting other little people in the area, and Miss Hengy said anyone interested in finding out more about the organization may write to her at 535 College Lane.

There are 1,500 members of the national organization, Miss Hengy said, and it is believed there are some 5,000 little people in the United States. The organization accepts only members with strict character references, and no one taller than four feet ten inches may join.

"We do the same things you do. We feel the same way," Wright said. "We live in our world, but we have to live in your world too."

BEATLE TUNE PLAYED

LIVERPOOL, England (AP)—The Liverpool Royal Philharmonic Orchestra included in its program of Greig, Tchaikovsky and Strauss Saturday night an arrangement of "I Wanna Hold Your Hand," a tune made famous by the Beatles, four Liverpool boys who made good. The idea was suggested to the Philharmonic by conductor Arthur Fiedler of the Boston Pops Orchestra.

ASTHMA & BRONCHITIS

A quick easy way to combat difficult breathing, coughing, rattling and wheeziness, due to recurring attacks of Bronchial Asthma and Bronchitis, is by taking fortified MENDACO. Acts fast to combat allergy, relax bronchial tubes and help remove thick, congestive mucus. This usually eases breathing fast, allays coughing; thus promotes sounder sleep. Get MENDACO at druggists. Let it help you. (Adv.)

LITTLE PEOPLE have to be twice as handy as big people to play games scaled for contestants twice their size. Discussions and a game of shuffleboard were part of a get-together yesterday at the Shreveporter Motel attended by 10 area members of the Little People of America, Inc., an organization for dwarfs and midgets. Left to right are Dr. W. F. Pledger, professor of sociology at Centenary College; Miss Judy Holmes, a junior at Fair Park High School; Miss Roberta Hengy, a student of Dr. Pledger's at Centenary College; and Lee Wright of Hooks, Tex., chairman of district 8 of the Little People. (Times Photo by Terry Vaughan)

Y NEWSPAPER IN THE UNITED STATES—FOUNDED 1771

Philadelphia Inquirer

PUBLIC LEDGER

NEW JERSEY Edition

NDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 20, 1965 J h 25

200 Meet in Gloucester

Little People Peeved By Small Minds of Their Big Neighbors

By ROSE DeWOLF
Of The Inquirer Staff

MIDGETS and dwarfs sometimes find the going rough in a big world. But their problems come not from the fellow with a tall physique but from the guy with a narrow mind.

Some 200 members of Little People of America, Inc.—all under four feet, 11 inches in height—are meeting this week in the Holiday Inn in Gloucester, N. J.

Their purpose is not only to enjoy themselves, but also to look the rest of the world in the eye and tell them that little people are different only in size. They measure up fine in talent, taste and intelligence.

"All of us have to make an adjustment," says Lee Kitchens, Texas engineer, who is president of the organization. "And, in that, we help one another. We try to impress the normal parents of 'little-littles' that they must treat the children no differently than if they were regular size.

"But most of the things most people talk about when referring to little people are not real problems — just annoyances."

Buying clothes for instance. It's hard for the little ladies to buy adult high heels. Buying insurance. For the some reason, little people are considered riskier. Driving cars. They must install "extensions" on the gas and brake pedals. Using a public telephone. Tall folks don't see the little caller, barge right into the booth.

* * *

"BUT there are advantages, too," says Harriet Hoppert, a Milwaukee school teacher, "particularly in my field. The children like the idea of my being physically on their level but mentally above them."

The little people are, contrary to public opinion, not a bunch of show business types. Most are professional people.

"We have every occupation here but basketball players," says Dr. Robert Spector, a du-Pont chemist from Wilmington.

The organization was founded seven years ago by actor Billy Barty (three feet six) who is best known for his role on Peter Gunn. Barty made an appeal to little people and attracted 21 to the first convention.

Today, there are 2000 names on the mailing list.

Barty says his pet peeve about the Gullivers of this world is their tendency to treat the little people like children. And this, they defenitely are not.

The little people may be small but they don't want anybody looking down on them. The motto of the organization: "Think Big." What else?

Tiny Billy Barty snaps photo of Lee Kitchens (left) and William Albaugh planning annual Little People of America Convention with Don Hughes, manager of Holiday Inn, Gloucester, N. J.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG HEARTS—It's grand for small folk at Holiday Inn near Gloucester City, N. J., as Little People of America hold annual convention. Sophia Juck (right), inn hostess who's 5-foot-7, leads some of group on tour of grounds.

Daily News Photo by Charles Myers

Big Time for the Little People

By NELS NELSON

Life isn't necessarily easier if all your problems are little ones.

How does one eat in the automat, for example, if the coin slots are beyond reach?

"Don't be ashamed to ask for help," advised Robert Spector, who stands 4 feet 5 in his thickest soles. "Be realistic. After all, there are worse handicaps than being small.

"I have no qualms, for example, about asking someone in the supermarket to get something for me off the top shelf, where it usually in."

THE ADVANTAGES of thinking big loom large in the lives of the Little People of America, a band of citizens whom nearly everybody looks down on, for their tallest member cannot tip the by-laws any higher than 4 feet 9.

"The problems involved in being small are mostly psychological," said Spector, 31, of 4308 Miller rd., Wilmington. "Such as, feeling sorry for oneself and taking the view that it's useless to bother trying for something that seems out of reach."

Spector, a technical writer for E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., points out that other Little People hold positions of great responsibility in vocational endeavors.

"One popular misconception we take pains to correct is that most Little People are in show business. Actually, less than 3 percent of our membership is in this category."

SPECTOR is coordinator of the 7th annual national convention of the LPA, which opened four days of sessions yesterday at the Holiday Inn, Gloucester City, N. J. About 90 Little People have arrived from far-flung places. The total may reach 150.

One of the events will be a choose-up softball game on the nearby Gloucester High School athletic field. The only concession to size will be the use of Little League bats.

A good many of the convention doings are frankly social.

"We're no matrimonial agency," said Spector, "but quite a few marriages have resulted from our meetings. I'm an example. I met my wife, the former Mary Taylor of Westmont, N. J., through friends I made among the Little People."

FURNISHING a house does not appear to present any problems among Little Newlyweds.

"We're comfortable in normal-sized furniture," Spector explained, "and we do have people as guests who are normal-sized. Of course, you may find more than the usual quota of stepladders around the house."

Among the problems, other than psychological, which the Little People bandy about at their gatherings are those presented by clothing, jobs, insurance, auto extensions and phone booths.

TEXAS DELEGATES SECURE 1966 CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN AUSTIN

(See related story Page 1)

Atlantans attend Little People Convention

Frank Duckworth (encircled in photo), district 4 chairman of the Little People of America Inc., and five other members from the Atlanta area recently attended the National Convention of Little People of America Inc. in Gloucester, N.J. The organization, which was started seven years ago by movie actor Billy Barty, claims a membership of approximately 2,000. "We are striving to teach little people to overcome their handicap and make useful citizens," Duckworth commented. Lee Kitchens, president of the Little People of America Inc., arrived in Atlanta Thursday afternoon to spend a day visiting some of the Atlanta members of the organization. Kitchens and his wife, who is chairman of the adoption committee of the organization, flew to Atlanta from New York in their private plane. A welcoming reception was held Thursday night at the home of Miss Francis Conville of 1932 Cannon St., Decatur. "Kitchens likes to visit the different cities," said Duckworth, District 4 chairman, "It creates more interest in the group."

1965

San Antonio Light, August 22, 1965
Classified Want Ads — CA 6-1231

But 'Think Big'

'Little People' Meet

By BEN SIEGAL

Airplanes are made for normal size people.

But little people can fly them just as well as their normal-size counterparts. All it takes is special controls.

Lee Kitchens of Richardson is testimony to that fact.

FLIES EVERYWHERE

The national president of the Little People of America, Inc., who is 4 feet 1, flys just about everywhere from his home to meetings of his organization.

Kitchens flew into San Antonio Saturday in his specially-equipped single-engine plane to attend a District eight meeting — the first such meeting ever held here.

Fifty members of the organization, plus members of their families, met at Koehler Park for a social gathering, and to work on plans for next year's national convention of the organization in Austin.

SPECIAL PEDALS

Kitchens, who is serving the second year of a two-year term as president, has a "normal-size" plane which is equipped with extended rudder pedals and flap handle controls, built up cushions in the seat and a rearranged starter on the instrument panel.

In short, all items that were in the right places for big people, but in the "wrong" places for little people were changed in the airplane to allow Kitchens to fly the craft.

His wife, Mary, who is 3 feet 11, serves as navigator. Two children, Alan, 9, and Sandra, 5, flew in with Kitchens, who is an electronics engineer for Texas Instruments in Dallas.

THINK BIG

The motto of the organization is "think big," and Kitchens noted that is exactly what the group tries to instill in all members.

"The main thing we try to teach our people, though, is that they have to compete (in this world) using their brain.

"We try to impress on our younger people that they should gain a skill so that they can be completely independent."

He said that persons classified as "little people," those under 4'10", have some advantages over normal-size persons.

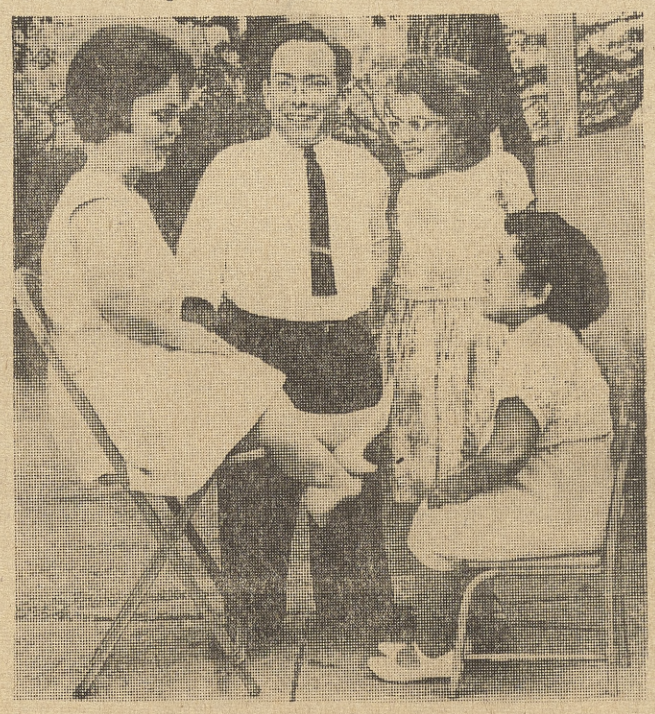
Little people can use their size to good advantage in business and are easily remembered, he said.

IS UNPREDICTABLE

Kitchens said that being small is "generally not hereditary," it's unpredictable before birth and is "generally uncorrectable."

Among others at the meeting were a number of "little, little people." Kitchens classified these as children who will grow up to be "little people."

As for size of parents or children of "little people," Kitchens said his father is 6 feet 2, his mother is 5 feet 10 and his sister is 5 feet 9.



LITTLE PEOPLE, members of an organization called the "Little People of America, Inc.," gather to discuss their problems. They are, left to right, Miss Betty Anderson, seated on a regular-size chair; Lee Kitchens, president of the association; Mrs. Lee Kitchens, and Mrs. Teresa Gomez, who brought her own special chair.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE MEET

Mrs. Lillie Johnson, 917 Dwina, just arrived home Monday morning after a month long trip to the east highlighted by a Little Peoples of America Convention in Gloucester, New Jersey.

The four-day convention included a talent show, a Roaring '20's dance, a fashion show featuring fashions made and modeled by the little people, ball games, bowling tournaments, and topped by the crowning of a new King and Queen elected to reign for a two year period.

To join the Little People, you must not be over 4'10" tall. The primary purpose of the conventions and meetings are to discuss and to compare solutions of the everyday problems that little people encounter. For example, using a pay telephone can be a hair-raising experience if you stand two feet below the receiver, and modern kitchens are far out of the reach of most members. Employment problems were also discussed by the group.

The Little People will have a district convention in Bakersfield over the Labor Day weekend which will be held at the Hacienda Motel.

From Gloucester, Mrs. Johnson traveled to Ipswich, Mass., to visit with her brother-in-law whom she had seen only once before. After Ipswich, Mrs. Johnson flew to Texas spending two weeks visiting friends and family in her home town.

Mrs. Johnson traveled by train from Texas to Bakersfield, tired but happy to be home from a most exciting holiday.

Mrs. Johnson resides with her niece, Mrs. Cecil Gibson.

'Little People' Convening

Hello, Up There!

GLOUCESTER, N.J. (AP) —Did you ever visit a hotel and find the shower spigots too high?

Or have you tried to make a telephone call and found the mouthpiece too far above the floor?

Most likely not. But then, you're probably not one of the "little people."

ABOUT 250 persons were expected Tuesday for the 7th annual convention of Little People of America Inc.

The only requisite for admission to the organization is that the applicant be less than 4 feet 11 inches tall.

The group has 1,800 members "and there are probably many more in the United States (who qualify) but we haven't heard of them," said a spokesman.

"We have problems that normal people don't have," said George Baehm III of New York City. "And at these annual conventions we are able to discuss those problems in addition to introducing little people to other little people."

"Had I not gone to the convention in North Carolina in 1962," said the 4-foot tall Baehm, "I'd not have met my wife." Baehm's wife, Christine, or "Tina," is 3 feet 11.

BAEHM, WHO works for his family's Baehm Container Co., said employment is one of the problems facing little people.

"As the public is becoming adjusted to our size," he said, "more opportunities arise."

Few of Little People of America's members are employed in show business, he said. They are active in "almost every occupation you can think of."

BUT probably the biggest problem facing them is simply that the world is designed for tall people.

The program for the convention, which ends Friday, includes dancing every night.

"Little people just love to dance," said Baehm. "But it's only on rare occasions that they are able to get together and dance with each other.

"And it looks awkward for a little man to dance with a normal girl."

Eileen Shanahan (left) of Chicago, who is 4 feet 3, watches as Claudia Bishop of Douglasville, Ga., who is just 3 feet 11, tries to dial the telephone. (AP)

Post 9/20/65

Undersized Citizens Small in Stature Only

By Willard Clopton
Washington Post Staff Writer

The group seated around Roy Bridges' living room at 2305 Skyland dr. ne. was having a pretty ordinary Sunday afternoon get-together.

There were pretzels, corn chips and potato salad and beer and cola and some emphatic remarks about the heat and the Redskins, and lots of laughter.

It could have been a scene from a cigarette commercial on TV, except for one thing: None of the 15 or so men and women in the room stood much taller than Roy Bridges' front door knob.

For this was a meeting of the Baltimore Chapter, Little People of America Inc., a group whose members are like anybody else except that bad genes or glands kept them from growing tall.

They gather now and then to socialize and talk over the peculiarities of life in a world of giants, where chairs and stairs and mailboxes and elevator buttons are too high, where merchandise in stores is out of reach and phone booths without seats seem like the work of the devil.

"Clothing is the worst thing," said Harold Schulman, 23, one of a carload of New Yorkers who drove down for the gathering in a car specially equipped for a short-legged driver. He is an accountant and stands 4 feet, 2 inches. He explained:

"You can't just go in a store and pick a suit off the rack. There are always extensive alterations to be made, and often you need to have it specially made."

There's a sterotype problem, said Bridges, 43, who stands 4 feet 6 and is the group's secretary-treasurer.

"A lot of people think most little people are in show business. Actually, few are. In this room, for instance, we have accountants, a chemist, a draftsman, secretaries and a college student. I'm a legal clerk at the Justice Department."

Surprisingly, little people seldom get picked on by criminals, he said.

"I've walked through some pretty bad parts of town, and nobody ever bothered me. Maybe they're afraid I'm a midget wrestler and they'd get flipped," he said, grinning.

Robert Spector, 32 and 4 feet 5 is the chemist. He works for duPont in Wilmington and has a Ph. D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

"Some jobs would be difficult for us, like being a salesman," he said. "But if you have talent and persevere, it is possible to live a normal, successful life."

Pat Londregan, 21 and 4 feet 2, is a counselor at a Catholic orphanage in White Plains, N.Y. She works with children age 2 to 5, some of whom are as tall as she.

"There's no problem" she said. "They ask and I say that's the way God made me, and that's it."

Most in the room had parents and siblings of normal height. Several admitted going through a period of bitterness before arriving at self-acceptance.

DETERMINATION PAYS OFF

'Little People' Discuss Their Problems at District Meeting

By HUGH NATIONS

They call themselves the little people.

It's an apt term for the midgets, dwarfs, those so afflicted—if affliction is the right word for pint-sized bundles of determination who have come eyeball-to-eyeball with a man-size handicap and stared it down to no more than a nuisance.

About 50 members of the Little People of America, Inc. were on hand Saturday evening in Koehler Pavilion, near Brackenridge Park, for a one-day District 8 meeting. The district includes Texas and Louisiana.

Most of those attending were small—the expression "bellying up to the bar" never originated with a midget—with a sprinkling of normal-size persons mixed in.

No one mistook it for a kindergarten party, though.

There's a pugnacity about the little people which sets them apart.

It isn't the "chip-on-my-shoulder, don't-mess-with-me Buster" kind of pugnaciousness, but more of a determined tenacity to prove that the key to a man lies under his breastbone, not in a tape measure.

Like Robert Anderson of 820 Steves Ave. in San Antonio, recalling his first round of job hunting when the 20th Century was in its teens.

"I marched up to this guy and asked for a job," Anderson recalled. "He looked down and asked me what I could do. 'Put me on and I'll show you,' I said.

"Well, he said he couldn't use me, so I said 'Okay—but I'll be back.' When I was about 25 feet away he yelled, 'Come back here a minute. Be here at 7 tomorrow morning.'

"'I'll be here before 7,' I told him."

Up From Coal Mine

That was in a coal mine in Alberta, Canada. Anderson went from that to farming in Bexar County to Civil Service work at Kelly Air Force Base, where he retired last year after 15 years.

After one glance it's obvious that Anderson is a man who looks up to his wife—she's normal size, standing five-feet-two. He stand four-feet-four.

Daughter Betty a graduate last year of Texas Woman's University, also is a little person at four feet even.

The little nuisances of a small person's life have been accentuated somewhat for the two smaller Andersons—they bought a house which had been built for a person taller than average.

Even Mrs. Anderson has trouble washing dishes in the high kitchen sink.

The Right Answer

For Betty, naturally, there were some problems growing up in a world larger than life.

"If she's ever resented it, though, we've never known it," her mother recalls. "One day in the second grade she came home crying about some of the things some of the children had said.

"I told here to tell them that was the way God made her, and since then she's never said anything else about it."

When high school time came around, Betty faced the perennial problem of the Lilliputian growing up in the land of Brobdignagians. She lacked for dates.

"That was, I'm sure, the thing she missed more than anything else in high school," her mother recalled.

At TWU, though, Betty fell into one date unexpectedly—both for her and the fellow.

He phoned for her roommate—who was out—to show off a brand new sports car. Stymied with the roommate, he turned to Betty.

"She tried to explain that she was a trifle small," Mrs. Anderson smiled, "but he wouldn't take no for an answer. When he showed up he never even blinked, and he didn't say anything the whole time about her being a little person."

Ex-Buster Brown

Among the dignitaries on hand for the District 8 LPA meeting were Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Clifton. Clifton retired about eight years ago from the state treasurer's office in Austin.

Before that, between 1913 and 1925, he was Buster Brown—the official personification of the shoe company.

The Cliftons are true midgets—perfectly formed little people whose size is attributable to a pituitary gland defect, not to any physical malformation.

And they claim to be part of the only three-generation midget family in the world. Their daughter is a midget, as are two of their three grandchildren.

Being small has its disadvantages, the little people say, but it also has its advantages.

Miss Lee Landry, a first-grade teacher from Napoleonville, La., occasionally gets mixed in with a crowd of school children and is on the receiving end of some sharp orders from fellow teachers.

But Miss Landry also writes—of necessity—on only the lower portion of the chalkboard, making it easier for her students to shift from the chalkboard to work on their desks.

The little person in public life also has a distinct advantage over his larger counterparts, according to LPA national President Lee Kitchens of Richardson.

"Once we're introduced to anyone, they very seldom forget us," Kitchens said.

ONE MORE PROBLEM MET—Betty Anderson, 21, of San Antonio may be diminutive, but she still san wheel around two tons of automobile, thanks to specially extended pedals. Her father, also a "little person," has been driving since 1912.—Staff Photo.

LOCAL COUPLE RETURN FROM CONVENTION HELD IN GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wright have returned from a tour of fifteen southern and eastern states, accompanied by Miss Betty Anderson of San Antonio and Miss Jacquelyn Hester of Dallas. The four were among the 162 delegates to the Seventh National convention of Little People of America which met this year at the Holiday Inn in Gloucester, N. J. Also attending were the Wright's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bedow of Owatonna, Minnesota.

Aside from reporting an enjoyable time, the Hooks couple and other delegates from District 8 of which Wright is Chairman, were successful in securing the 1966 convention for Texas to be held in Austin in July.

Upon their return home, the local couple had as their guests, the president of the organization and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Texas, where he is an engineer at Texas Instruments.

A photo of the conventioners appears on Page 4 of this issue of the Reporter.

Little People Think Big, Gain Friends

"Think Big" is the motto of a little group—little in stature, that is, not number. The Little People of America (LPA) is an organization founded for dwarfs and midgets, 4 feet 10 and under.

A Utah chapter of LPA was organized in March by Mrs. Shannon Carstens, 7790 So. Steffensen Dr. (2730 East), Holladay. There were two members at the first meeting. Now there are 16 active members and 12 prospective members.

General Purpose

The general purpose of the group is to provide friendship, exchange ideas, find solutions to the big problems of little persons and give moral support. It was founded by Billy Barty, TV and movie actor, in 1955.

The biggest problem of little people is accepting their size, according to Mrs. Carstens, Utah State Coordinator of District 10 of LPA. They isolate themselves with the feeling they are different instead of accepting this difference and mingling with the world.

Child Best Friend

Perhaps the little person's best friend is a child. Mrs. Carstens said that at first children will stare, but gradually they will accept a midget. They seem to find it fun to know someone their own size with a higher mentality, she said.

The children in Mrs. Carstens' neighborhood were reluctant to associate with her at first. Now she is known to the neighborhood youngsters as the "little lady."

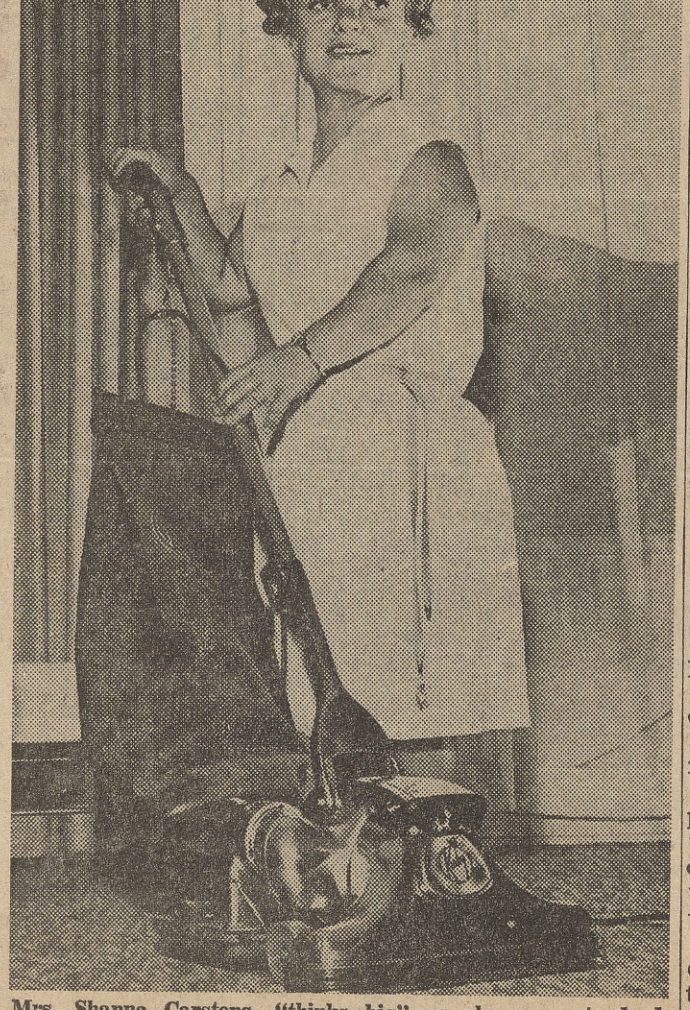
"They like to come to my house and stand on a stool with me and watch me cook," said Mrs. Carstens.

Phone Booth Problem

Most of the "big" appliances or fixtures can be approached with a stool or a ladder. But problems arise when a small person tries to make a phone call in a phone booth, so some cities have installed shelves for short persons to stand on when making a phone call.

Buying clothes and shoes to fit presents a continual problem to the midget or dwarf. Most women sew their own clothes or buy women's dresses and shorten them, according to Mrs. Carstens.

Parents with small-sized children also can find a place in this organization with the formation of a Parents Auxiliary.



Mrs. Shanna Carstens, "thinks big" as she uses standard vacuum in house cleaning chores. She is a "little person."

Sent in by Margie Hoy

22—The Morning Record, Meriden, Conn. Mon., Dec. 27, 1965

Japan Jet Lands Safely After Trouble

OAKLAND Calif. (AP) — Holiday passengers missed their Christmas dinner aboard a Tokyo-bound Japan Airlines jet and escaped down an emergency chute without injury after the damage plane limped to a landing.

The plane's outer left engine caught fire four minutes after the DC8's takeoff from San Francisco International Airport on Christmas Day. There were 31 passengers and 10 crew members aboard.

"She went blooie" said Flight Officer Harold L. Brown the only American crew member. "There wasn't any warning."

Parts of the engine fell over suburban areas but the falling debris caused no reported damage. Capt. Tsuneo Kato of Tokyo landed the plane at Oakland International Airport, across the bay from San Francisco.

Wheels On Fire

The fuel-laden plane screeched to a stop, its wheels on fire from the friction of the runways.

Saturday's emergency was similar to an incident June 28 when a Pan American World Airways Boeing 707 jet from San Francisco's airport lost an engine and 30 feet of wing over suburban San Francisco. That plane landed safely at nearby Travis Air Force Base with 153 persons aboard. None were injured.

1965 HOUSTON CHRONICLE Page 14 Section 3 Sunday, October 10,

Little People Learning to Face Big World on Their Own Level

BY DICK STANLEY
Chronicle Reporter

"When little people meet someone at eye level for the first time, they feel six feet tall,' said four-footer Lee Wright.

He sat in a booth at the One's A Meal at 9047 South Main, his feet dangling.

Lee Kitchens, a four-foot-one electrical engineer from Richardson, added, "Sometimes that first meeting is a shock. It's like seeing yourself in a mirror for the first time—like seeing yourself as others see you."

Little People, Inc.

As the two little men spoke, about 50 other members of the Little People of America, Inc., ate supper in the rear dining room.

The room was filled with chatter and the sound of children. It was a reunion, a reunion of a family of people who almost always have to look up to people, a family less than 4 feet 10 inches tall.

Wright, 68, of Hooks, Texas, is a retired dry cleaning operator. He is District 8 director of the Little People of America. Kitchens, 35, is president of the national organization.

Two Worlds

They and nearly 700 more members are dedicated to learning to live and work in two worlds — the "little" world and the normal world.

"The LPA helps little people who never had a chance to get into the normal world. Often, the LPA gives little people their first opportunity to meet a group where they are not different from the rest," said Kitchens.

"Where jobs are concerned, a little person will be better off as a draftsman than as a truck driver," Kitchens said. "But he may have his heart set on being a truck driver.

Share Experience

"Other people may not be able to convince him of that, but we can. We can give him all the benefit of what we have learned during our lives.

"It's like teen-agers. One teenager can convince another a lot easier than an adult can."

Wright said the club includes laborers to lawyers.

Show Business

"About 25 or 30 years ago most little people had to work in show business. Now only about six percent of us are in show business. And I don't know of any here who are unemployed."

"We stress higher education," said Wright. "We've got pepole in colleges all over the country finding out that it's not how big you are, but how much you know that counts."

Kitchens said the term "midget" is usually incorrect in referring to the little people. "Midgetism is only one of about 40 kinds of dwarfism."

Wright added that his people prefer being called little people. "It's a little nicer."

A national convention this year brought 160 little people to Gloucester, N.J. Kitchens expects 250 for the 1966 national convention in Austin.

1965

Tiny Teacher Has Some Problems

GLOUCESTER CITY, N.J. (AP) — "It gives a second grader a great deal of pleasure to look down on me," says second-grade teacher Harriet Hoppert.

But Miss Hoppert, a pert 4-feet-2, adds, "I make the rules in my class and the children obey me as they would any other teacher.

"The first three or four weeks are rough, but as soon as I get them to know me as Miss Hoppert they forget me as the little lady." She teaches at the Browning School in Milwaukee.

Miss Hoppert is one of the 250 persons, all under 4-feet-11, attending the annual convention of Little People of America, Inc.

The group was started seven years ago to help short people solve mutual problems.

Their motto: "Think big."

1966's

LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG PROBLEMS

About a hundred thousand Americans are dwarfs, or little people (a designation they prefer), who reach an adult height of four feet ten inches or less. There are over a hundred different types of short-stature conditions whose causes range from abnormal genes to malnutrition. It is important to diagnose these conditions early since they may present a variety of medical and social problems. Some little people are prone to ear infections that can lead to hearing loss or to abnormal bone development that may result in crippling. All may face discrimination. While specialists across the country are helping victims of dwarfism, a division of the Moore Clinic at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore offers medical care and counseling for the range of their problems. Little people can get information about these services by writing the physician in charge of the Clinic, Dr. Edmond Murphy, at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md. 21205.

THINKING BIG—Two members of the Little People of America, Freida Betsky and Ann Cleary, pour over notebook containing plans for their annual meeting which will be held March 31 to April 2 in Atlantic City. . . . The nationwide membership total is 750. They meet frequently in each others homes to talk about mutual problems, exchange ideas or just to have fun. Shown above, all members of LPA, are Joseph Steinberg, Miss Betsky, Phil Hochstadt, Richard Heyman, Miss Cleary, Sherry Hochstadt, Phil's daughter, and Michael Roche. Organization was formally incorporated in 1960. There are an estimated 2,500 little people in the U.S. . . . Sherry, who is a 17-year-old high school senior in Connecticut, and Mike, an accountant with Pan American Airlines, hold the LPA emblem "Think Big" motto. Group was brought together through organization.

A Small Party Gets Together

The Little People Have Their Own Club, but Work in Big World

By JAMES CUSICK
Staff Correspondent.

NEW YORK — The doorbell in the apartment overlooking Stuyvesant Oval rang, and Ann Cleary excused herself from her guests for a moment, walked to the door and opened it.

"Come on in; come on in," she said, and the lull in the conversation suddenly picked up and people walked into the living room past the chocolate cake and the coffee cups already set out on a table.

"How are you?" someone asked Ann.

"Hi, Bobo. Here's something for you."

"Here, give me your coats and stay out of my chair."

"That's a good boy. Just sit down anywhere. It's good to see you again."

A meeting of the Little People of America was about to begin. Their motto is "Think Big."

For Ann and her friends, Joe Steinberg, Freida Betsky, Phil Hochstadt and his daughter, Sherry, and Mike Roche and Richie Heyman, the informal meeting was an opportunity on a Sunday afternoon to get together over coffee and cake, to talk about themselves, their problems, their futures, and to plan for their annual convention to be held the end of next month in Atlantic City.

Going to Be Fun

"The convention is going to be fun," said Miss Cleary, one of the directors of LPA. "We don't know how many little people are going to be there, but in this district which includes New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, there are 275 members." The convention will begin March 31 and end April 2.

The paid membership nationwide in the organization is 750. Miss Cleary estimates there are 2,500 little people in the U.S.

The organization, which got under way in 1955 and was formally incorporated five years later, was started to provide fellowship, interchange of ideas, solutions to the unique problems of a little person, and moral support.

Opens New World

The brochure of the organization states:

"It is often difficult for some of us to meet other people for the first time. We are used to living in the 'big world' and often do not wish to admit to ourselves that we are different from other people in some way.

"But regardless of this feeling, the same problems are present with each of us, and meeting others with those problems opens a new world of understanding and friendship."

"Problems?" said Richie Heyman. "The only problem I ever had was in school. I couldn't reach the blackboard. But that didn't matter too much; you see I was always the first in line."

"All joking aside," said Miss Cleary, "the fact is that little people are living in a world designed for people over five feet, but we're all doing well.

"You know, most people think that we work only in show business. The fact is that less than 2 per cent do so. The rest hold jobs in almost every field.

"For instance, of the seven of us here, only Freida is a show person."

Freida Betsky started in show business at the age of 14. She was in the original cast of "The Wizard of Oz" as one of the Munchkins; worked for Walt Disney in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," and was in the Radio City opening of Disney's "Mickey Mouse."

Variety of Jobs

"I'm 53 years old and I've been in almost everything," Frieda Betsky said.

"The rest of us," Miss Cleary continued, "work in every day jobs. I'm an executive secretary here in the city; Joe is a clerk in the city's Health Department; Richie works in a machine shop in Port Washington.

"Mike is a junior accountant with Pan American Airlines and Phil . . . What do you do?" she asked him.

"I work on the assembly line at Sikorsky Aircraft in Bridgeport (Conn.)," he replied. "Sherry is a senior in high school there."

"You know," Mike, said "getting a job is tough. But if you're a little person, it's tougher. A lot of businesses don't want to take a chance. They're slowly starting to learn that a little person can do many of the jobs a big person can do."

Bowling Is Big

"Look," said Joe Rosenberg, "I even know a guy who drives a cement truck. And Richie and Phil drive their own cars."

"Bowling is a big sport for little people. That and swimming," added Richie.

"Don't forget dancing," said Mike as he and Sherry did a slow fox trot to the strains of a Dean Martin record that softly flooded the living room.

Most of the group were brought together through LPA.

"What we mean to say," said Miss Cleary, "is that we can do anything, if given a chance, except be tall.

"It's been through LPA that a lot of us have gotten a start," she added.

1967

Little Folks' Convention Planned

The Little People of America, a national organization for persons not more than four feet, ten inches tall, will hold a district convention Saturday and Sunday at the Villa Capri Motel.

The meeting, which will be co-chaired by Mrs. J. E. Clifton of Austin, will host little people from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma, the four states comprising District Eight of the national group.

The purpose of the Little People of America is to provide an interchange of ideas and solutions for the unique problems that face the little people such as finding clothes that really fit and employment opportunities.

In 1966 Austin was the site of the national convention of the L.P.A. More than 170 little people from across the nation attended.

This year's district meeting begins Saturday at 2 p.m.

Doctor Makes Appeal For Pituitary Glands

By SUE CONNALLY

A plea for persons to will their pituitary glands for the thousands of children destined otherwise to be dwarfs was voiced Monday by the president of Human Growth, Inc.

"By denying removal of the pituitary gland, you deny a chance for a normal life for the 10,000 kids afflicted with this," asserted Dr. James R. Brathovde.

Dr. Brathovde, professor and chairman of the chemistry department at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, was in Dallas to discuss work of the relavtively new organization and its purposes.

"We're unique," he said in an interview, explaining that HG is the only agency having "coupled research problems with the cure. We know what the answer is."

THE ANSWER is human growth hormone (HGH). If given in adequate dosage, it will enable a child to grow "to the height he is constitutionally destined to attain."

Otherwise, the usual height attained is between three-and-a-half and four feet.

Unfortunately, the only source of HGH is the small pituitary gland, located at the base of the brain. Dr. Brathovde said that to provide a course of treatment for one child for one year, from 100 to 300 glands may be necessary. And the treatment lasts from three to five years.

"There just isn't enough of it."

IN AN ATTEMPT to ease the situation and obtain enough of the glands for both research and treatment purposes, the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases has contracted with the National Pituitary Agency at Johns Hopkins University to improve collection of the glands. Human Growth is helping in the collection.

Dr. Brathovde said that four Dallas hospitals have been participating in the work, including Baylor University Medical Center, Methodist Hospital of Dallas, Parkland Hospital and St. Paul Hospital.

The official pointed out that not all dwarfs may be aided by HGH, only those with the condition known as hypopituitarism, involving a deficiency of the pntuitary gland.

Brathovde spoke during a meeting Monday night of the newly organized North Texas Chapter of Human Growth. Hugh Park is chapter president.

Little Lady Who Thinks Big

Star-N B 1
Thursday, August 18, 1966

BY FILOMENA LEA
Star Women's Editor

School bells will ring next month at the Browning School, 5575 N. 76th St., and second graders will file into Harriet Hoppert's room to begin the fall term. (They all want to be in Miss Hoppert's classroom.)

Strangers peaking in will have to look long and hard to find Miss Hoppert. She's only four feet, two inches and sometimes the kids are taller than she.

But there's no mistake as to who is leading the band of attentive students. The moment she calls roll, her husky, earthy voice will bellow through the room and visitors can spot her with no difficulty.

Miss Hoppert, a 90 pound dwarf, wears a twinkle behind her glasses. She's got brown hair and blue eyes and thinks nothing of curling up into a chair. Anyway it's the most comfortable way for her to sit since her feet can never touch the floor when seated in an average size chair.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, she is the sixth district director of the Little People of America, Inc., an organization formed in 1955 aimed at providing fellowship and solutions to the peculiarly unique problems of small people, including dwarfs and midgets.

According to statistics there are over 2,000 dwarfs and midgets in the United States. "Some say there are five and six thousand," Miss Hoppert says. Of these, 600 are paid members of the Little People of America, Inc.

"In my district which encompasses Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri, we have 36 paid members," she adds. "The main objectives of the national organization are several. First of all, it gives us the opportunity to exchange ideas.

"For instance," Miss Hoppert continued to explain, "we can get tips on driving a car with extensions made expressly for us. Women can get tips on buying shoes. You know, it's not easy to find size four shoes," she said pointing to her diminutive feet. "And I have big feet compared to others who need size one and two shoes."

Another function of the Little People of America group is to acquaint parents of dwarfs and midgets with the group's parents' auxiliary.

Many people, including parents influenced by Hollywood slapstick, do believe that dwarfs and midgets are only qualified for circus work or show business. Some even think they have to support and care for these children for life. "Our organization hopes to erase this image," Miss Hoppert states.

Short people do have shortcomings, the elementary school teacher admits, "but we can do anything our taller friends can. We can bowl, swim, play tennis, golf, ski, ride bikes, even fly our own airplanes.

"We do try to watch out diets, though we can eat like everyone else. About the only problem we do have is to try to be independent."

This can be tough at times, she confesses, but the organization was formed to help little people solve these seemingly inexplicable matters.

For instance, Miss Hoppert illustrates, "we have trouble using a phone in a booth. Now due to some quick thinking, we've devised a handy gadget that will reach the dials for us. It should be available to us soon.

"I guess we are one of the few organizations trying to eradicate itself. We are pooling all our efforts to find medical solutions to shortness in this era of physical beauty.

"We also make every effort to raise the hopes and aspirations of teenagers who are either dwarfed or midget size."

Formerly of Sheboygan, Miss Hoppert comes from an average sized family of three brothers and two sisters. "I also have 11 nieces and nephews who are all average size."

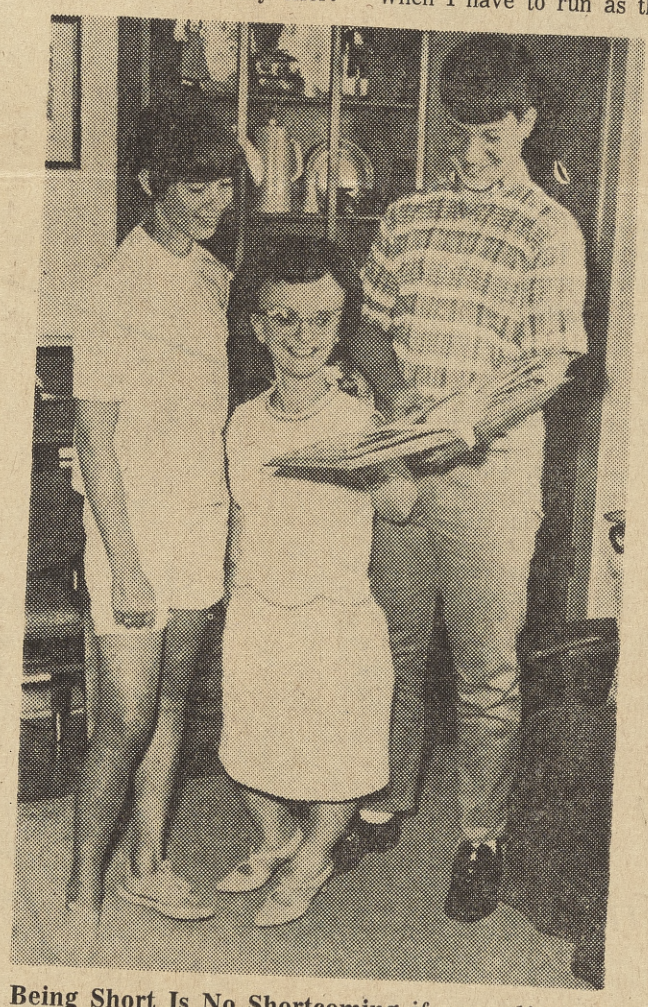
Fortunately her childhood was never marred for her size. "My family always felt I should do the best I could, but many families cannot adjust themselves as easily as mine."

One of the best things that happens to her because of her size is to realize friends are not aware of her height at all. "When I have to run as they walk, I know they've forgotten my size."

Listing some of the everlasting problems little people are confronted with, Miss Hoppert mentioned not being able to use mirrors in rest rooms. At home she has a stool she carts along with her from room to room, but when out she doesn't have access to it.

Buying clothes is forever a problem. She wears a size seven and there's no end to hemline shortening. "The new

Turn to Page 2, Col. 2



Being Short Is No Shortcoming if one adjusts and accepts being far less than average in height. A dwarf, Miss Harriet Hoppert, 7719 W. Hampton Ave., has proven it to herself and is equipped to prove it to other dwarfs and midgets as district director of the Little People of America, Inc. Glancing at a scrapbook of the group's national activities, she is shown with her niece, Chris Hoppert and nephew, Philip Hoppert, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic M. Hoppert, 2207 W. Ludington. (Star Photo)

Short Lady Lives In Two Worlds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mini skirts, bless them, are just right for me."

Ironically, Miss Hoppert sleeps in a king-size bed. She laughs as she tells she got it without ordering it.

Shopping for groceries in a super market poses a few more problems. "I can never reach the top shelf and inevitably what I want is always on the top shelf. However, the store managers know me and are extremely helpful. They were even kind enough to offer a stock boy to fill my order if I had all the items listed."

The nicest thing about belonging to the Little People of America is being able to be among others of the same size. "We're so used to being in the minority in large crowds, it's fun being together with short people.

"Male members have the chance to help another adult; to help a woman with her coat as an example."

Defining the words dwarf and midget, Miss Hoppert stated, "We've become a medical bonanza. Dwarfs don't like to be called midgets and vice versus. A dwarf is best described as a person with stunted growth. He has a normal trunk, whereas a midget is proportionately small and also tends to be a little taller."

Before becoming a certified teacher, Miss Hoppert worked as a leader for the Girl Scouts of America. "My family lived on a farm and I enjoyed Girl Scouting activities so chose to go into it on a full time basis."

Later she taught in Sheboygan for eight years and at the moment has almost completed her requirements for her master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Midgets and dwarfs, she says, can be anything but tall. "Our organization, which is based on size and brings people together from all economic, education and interest areas, emphasizes this.

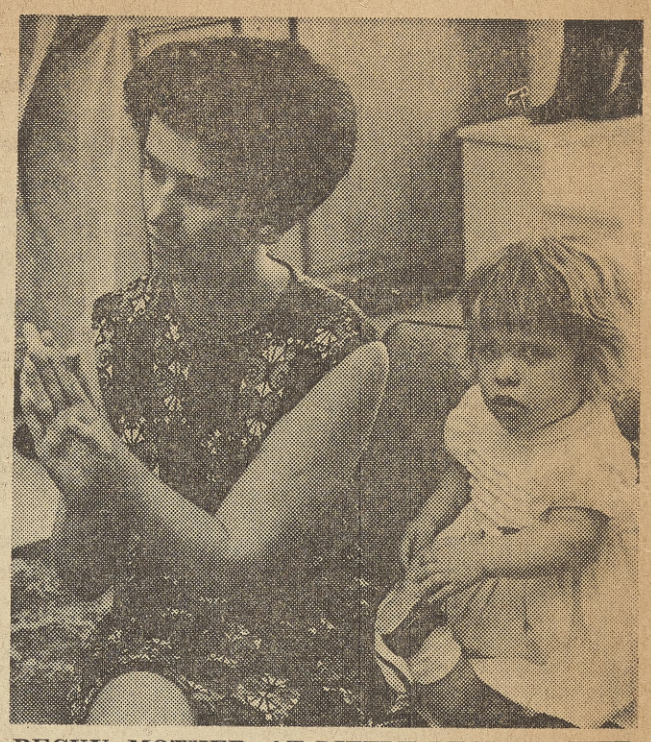
"Years ago, I used to leave the room or look in another direction when a short person was scoffed at or was the brunt of jokes.

"Movies gave people the idea we were to be laughed at. That we were freaks. And people responded, 'I'm people what are you'. But much of this has been blotted out."

Although, she indicates there are some states which have laws on height. "People have to be five feet, two inches in some states." to teach

A member of the Business and Professional Woman's Club, Miss Hoppert also writes and paints. She is a little lady who thinks big. A small person can live in two worlds — a small world and a normal world, and still find happiness. She found out, and hopes she can help others like her through the efforts of the Little People of America, Inc.

THE HOUSTON POST
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1967 SECTION 4, PAGE 11



BECKY, MOTHER, AT LITTLE PEOPLE MEET
'She Just Finds a Way,' said Mrs Brown
—Post Photo by Jerry Click

Becky Finds Friends

Dwarf Toddler Tries Harder

By HUGH NATIONS
Post Reporter

The world handed 3½-year-old Becky Brown a lemon.

Her parents, though, are unworried. They're determined that one day Becky will make lemonade out of the bitter fruit she's reaped.

Becky was one of several dozen midgets and dwarfs on hand Saturday at the Ramada Inn on Allen Parkway for the annual meeting of the Little People of America, Texas-Louisiana District, which will end Sunday.

The blonde tyke stands only 30 inches and weighs 27 pounds—several inches and several pounds less than the average 3½-year-old.

BUT BECKY tries harder.

"She doesn't realize that she can't do everything that everybody else does, so she just finds a way to do it," says Becky's mother, Mrs Al Brown of Lake Jackson.

Both Mrs Brown and her husband, an engineer for Dow Chemical Co in Freeport, are normal size. So are their other two daughters, Karen, 8, and Janet, 6.

Becky's approach to problems was typified recently when she helped her mother clean off the table and stack the dishes in the sink.

SHE COULDN'T reach the top of the table without a chair. She couldn't reach the sink without another chair. That was a lot of clambering up and down.

So Becky formed an elevated walk with chairs all the way from the table to the sink. She finished the job quickly.

Becky faces a few other tribulations that don't fall to the lot of the normal child.

Like most achondroplastic dwarfs, in whom the long arm and leg bones thicken but do not lengthen, Becky's head is large in proportion to her body.

BECAUSE OF this, she is top-heavy and falls easily. She has received many black eyes.

Her arms are so short she can't reach the top of her head, so she tilts it. Neither can her arms reach the floor when she's seated on it. Toys must be held in her lap.

On the other hand, there have been some compensations.

"We've had to pay less for her shoes than for the other kids," Brown said, "because she doesn't grow out of them."

THE SHINIEST silver lining, though, is forged of friendships. Everyone in Lake Jackson knows Becky; at the grocery store, at church, at the movie—everybody speaks to the little blonde tyke.

Mrs Brown said Karen and Janet seldom show any petulance when Becky receives a little extra attention.

"This organization (Little People of America) has helped them because they can visualize what she will be like when she grows up," Mrs Brown said.

WHEN SHE grows up, it won't be very far, probably somewhere well under 4 feet 10 inches.

For Becky, though, it shouldn't be too much of a problem.

Because Becky tries harder—making lemonade out of that lemon.

12-C ★★ LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL--Monday Evening, May 1, 1967

Girl, Now 3, Has 26-Inch Frame, And

By RANDY COLLIER

WINSLOW, Ariz. (AP) — For Dianne Proctor, the world around her is giant — too tall to reach and too high to climb.

Dianne is 3, but she weighs no more than an ordinary 2-month-old child. There's little hope her 26-inch frame will grow any taller.

Dianne's story would be sad if it weren't for her happiness. Despite her handicap — she's still a lucky little girl. Abandoned by her mother — she's lived most of her life with her adopted parents, Mr. and Mrs. David F. Proctor.

Little Hope Offered

At birth, she weighed a little over two pounds. In less than a week she dropped to one pound, 13 ounces, and doctors in this small town offered little hope she would live.

Weeks in an incubator turned into months, and when she was a year old, she tipped the scale at 7 pounds, 14 ounces. She now weighs 10 pounds, 4 ounces.

Her first two years involved a little more than going from doctor to doctor, about 24 in all. Her first major ailment was a kidney infection. Then came the flu and a number of colds.

"Every doctor gave a different diagnosis. It wasn't until she was two-years-old that we found out exactly what was wrong with her," Mrs. Proctor said.

"We had taken her to Albuquerque to be examined when we met Dr. Charles Wolf. A short time later he moved to the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, and asked that we bring Dianne there," she added.

Blood Examined

In Detroit, Wolf, by examining Dianne's blood, learned there was an odd-shape chromosome in her blood cells.

He said that all but one of the chromosomes in her blood cells were straight, or normal. But, he said, one was round-shaped. As with other cases of strange genetic circumstance, there is not much to do.

The fate of Dianne is still a mystery. Wolf said the answer lies solely in Dianne since the deformity is so rare.

She Probably Won't Get Any Taller

When he examined her in Detroit last June he took away the many medicines she was taking, saying, "I think we should enjoy her for the way she is for the time being."

Dianne will be examined again this June. The doctor has told the Proctors he doesn't think the examination will be much of a help to the tiny tike, but he says he wants to see if the round chromosome is still the same.

Meanwhile the Proctors are treating Dianne as normally as possible. By doing this, Mrs. Proctor says the child has begun acting more like a normal, active child.

Late Walking

"She didn't walk until she was nearly two. I think that was because we had a tendency to carry her all the time because of her baby size.

"We seemed to keep her more to herself, because of her problem. We were afraid to let her play with other children because of her size.

"Then we were told we should expose her to other children and let her do more or less as she pleased. It wasn't long before she was walking and playing just like any other child her age," her mother said.

Mrs. Proctor said she has gotten used to the stares her little girl receives anywhere she goes. "At first in bothered me, but then I realized people were interested.

"Other mothers would ask me exactly what was wrong with Dianne, and after we found out — I told them. The people we know in Winslow, are pulling for her, just as much as we are."

She said the only real worry is that other children can't believe Dianne is more than a little baby. "They all want to pick her up, and that can be dangerous, since she bruises very easily."

Buying clothes for Dianne isn't as much of a problem as it might seem. She wears a size 1 baby shoe, and her dresses are usually made from a size 26 doll pattern. In a rush, she can wear a cut down size 6-month baby dress.

Mrs. Proctor knew she was asking for a lot of hard work when she adopted Dianne, and her older sister Rebecca. But she said there was no one else to take care of them.

"It's been an expensive but rewarding challenge," she said. "Every step my little girl takes is another reward."

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WE CAN END DWARFISM!

The miracle hormone—HGH—makes little people grow

by LLOYD SHEARER

Nobody knows for sure, but there are an estimated 25,000 dwarfs of all types in the U.S.

By arbitrary definition a dwarf is any undersized person 4-feet-10 inches or less in height.

Many of these undersized people—an estimated 7,000—are known as hypopituitary dwarfs. Their height-shortage is caused by a dysfunction of the pituitary gland.

The pituitary gland is a small red organ the size of a pea. It is located in the middle of the skull at about the level of the ears. It manufactures hormones, chemicals secreted into the blood stream, which regulate growth.

Hypo (a prefix meaning "too little") pituitary dwarfs have pituitary glands which secrete little or no HGH—human growth hormone.

The result is that children born with this deficiency never achieve normal height, which in this country now averages out to 5-feet-8.2 inches for men and 5-feet-3 inches for women. Instead, they become dwarfs.

Take our cover boy. He is 17 years old, yet only the size of a normal 9-year-old. Two years ago, before he began taking shots of HGH, he was a hypopituitary dwarf less than 4 feet tall. Today, he is 4-feet-5. If he can get enough human growth hormone, he will probably end up 5 feet or taller.

Harold Riley is a junior at Grant Community High School in Ingleside, Ill. His health and intelligence are top-grade. His father, a deceased bosun's mate in the Navy, was 6-feet-1. His mother is 5-feet-7. His brother is 6-feet-1, his two sisters 5-feet-6, 5-feet-7.

Harold's story is the story of thousands of these hypopituitary children. When born their weight is normal. They grow and develop at the normal rate until some period between age 1 and age 3. Then they begin to lag behind in height and bone maturation.

NEED IS GREAT

According to Dr. William Latimer of the National Pituitary Agency in Baltimore there are at least 10,000 hypopituitary children in the U.S. in need of human growth hormone, the supply of which is woefully inadequate to meet the demand.

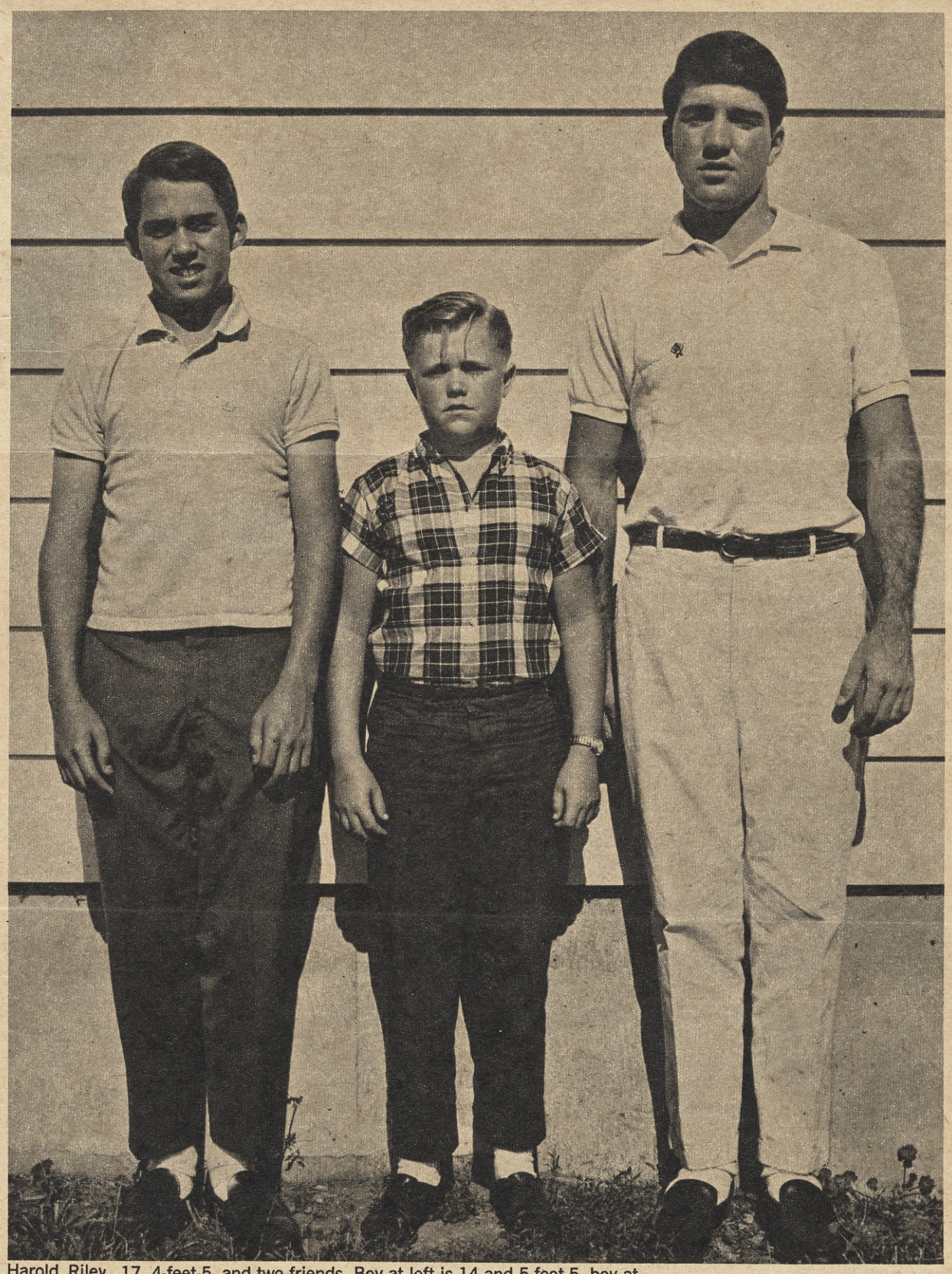
Unfortunately, the only source at present of human growth hormone is pituitary glands obtained through autopsies.

It cannot be manufactured synthetically, not as yet. And all attempts to use animal hormones as a substitute have been unsuccessful to date.

We can help thousands of dwarfed American children grow to normal height by collecting and contributing human pituitary glands to the National Pituitary Agency, an organization formed in 1963 with the sponsorship of the College of American Pathologists, the National Institutes of Health, and many of the nation's leading endocrinologists.

The National Pituitary Agency extracts the human growth hormone from the pituitary glands, distributes it to doctors, research centers, and parents in the research program who inject their own undersized offspring.

The Agency has three purposes: (1) To increase the number of pituitaries collected in this country. Ap-



Harold Riley, 17, 4-feet-5, and two friends. Boy at left is 14 and 5-feet-5, boy at right is 17 and 5-feet-11. Harold is one of the lucky "little people" now being treated with human growth hormone, has grown more than 5 inches in the last two years.

proximately 1,500,000 people died in the U.S. last year, but only 50,000 pituitaries were collected. What a tremendous waste! (2) To promote basic and clinical studies with human growth hormone, to make it available to all investigators as soon as possible and to make the hormone available to all the children who need it for growth. (3) To eliminate the duplication of effort in collecting pituitaries, to channel it all through one agency.

Would you like to help?

There are two major ways: (1) You can will your pituitary gland or talk a friend or relative into willing his to the National Pituitary Agency, 1900 McElderry Street, Baltimore, Md. 21205. Write for its simple 3-line form. By so doing you or your relative will make a positive contribution to medical science and clinical research after death.

(2) You can write the Agency and offer your services as a lay volunteer to call upon pathologists in your local neighborhood hospitals and enlist their help in contributing pituitary glands. The Agency has literature which tells you how to go about the job, and its officials will save you time and energy by directing you away from those hospitals already collecting and contributing glands.

For thousands of men and women with spare time on their hands, for persons who would like to perform a meaningful and humanitarian job, this is indeed an opportunity.

SHORT SUPPLY

About 4 milligrams of human growth hormone can be obtained from a single pituitary gland, and that's less than enough for one week's treatment for one child —so you can see, every gland is desperately needed.

Right now the National Pituitary Agency in a process which is lengthy and complicated, has extracted enough HGH to place only 100 children under long-term investigative therapy. And yet in so many cases, dwarfs injected with the hormone, have spurted as much as 4 inches in 4 months.

Dr. Solomon Kaplan, a leading pediatrician and endocrinologist currently researching at the California Institute of Technology, says: "There is no doubt about it. If we had enough HGH, we could pretty nearly eradicate hypopituitary dwarfism not only in this country but around the world, because this stuff works effectively."

Only a few weeks ago the Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, Calif., revealed how one of its physicians had dramatically changed the life and future of Virgil Anderson, now 23.

When Virgil first reported to the clinic, he was almost 16 years old, measured 4-feet-4, was way behind in his sexual development. Treated with a combination of human growth hormone and testosterone, the boy grew 11 inches in 4½ years, now leads a normal life, works for his dad in San Diego.

For every case of dwarfism medicine has cured, there are a thousand it hasn't, largely because the supply of HGH has been so rare ever since 1956 when Dr. Choh Hao Li of the University of California first isolated the hormone.

Only the parents of an abnormal child can truly feel and sympathetically vibrate to the waves of agony, pain, and supersensitivity of a child who is not like other children. Such parents will do almost anything to get a supply of human growth hormone.

Elizabeth Riley, mother of our cover boy, is a case in point. Week after week she drives across northern Illinois, calls on hospital pathologists within a 50-mile area, talks to them and their *dieners* (*Diener* is an old German term meaning "helper") tries to enlist them in the cause of collecting pituitaries.

"I tell them," she explains, "the story of my son, how without their help he faces a lifetime of handicaps and limited opportunities. After all, the boy who's not 5 feet tall is barred from so many occupations, to say nothing of the very limited social life he must lead. They're medical men, and they're very understanding, but in many cases, they're limited, because lots of people won't give an autopsy consent; next of kin are funny about it, and autopsies are the only means we have of getting pituitary glands."

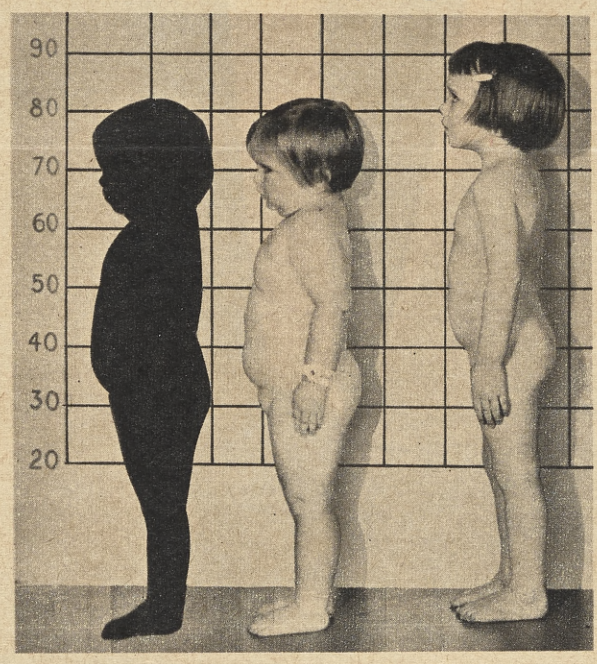
An attractive blonde widow in her early 40's, Elizabeth Riley says she didn't realize anything was wrong with Harold's growth pattern until he was 6 years old.

"I'd had three other children," she points out, "and I figured Harold was just a late starter. But one evening when I was putting his clothes away, it suddenly hit me. Harold was still wearing size 4 clothes. He'd been wearing the same size for almost three years. I knew this wasn't normal, and I quickly told my husband.

"We decided to take him next morning to the doctor at the Great Lakes Naval Station. My husband was in the Navy at the time. The Navy doctor examined Harold, who was then just a little taller than 3 feet, and said, 'I'm sorry. Nothing can be done for the boy.'

"I refused to give up," Mrs. Riley continues, "and a little while later I took him to another doctor. He was a pediatrician, also a Navy doctor. He referred us to another doctor who took a raft of tests. They measured Harold's head, his thyroid. They took blood samples, urine samples. He was perfectly normal in every respect. The only thing was this deficiency in the pituitary gland. No growth hormone.

What a difference a little human growth hormone makes. Look at this girl who by taking daily shots of the hormone grew 3½ inches in 5 months. Note the radical body changes as well.



Dr. Solomon Kaplan, chief of the Division of Endocrinology at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and one of the leading authorities on growth, discusses subject with two 14-year-olds.

"It looked very much as if nothing could be done for the boy, that Harold would never grow very much beyond 3½ or 4 feet, and I don't have to tell you, it was heart-shattering. He's such a sweet, good-looking boy.

"How does a mother tell a child what tortures lie ahead? I couldn't. I just couldn't. I couldn't say, 'Look, son. It's no fault of yours, but from here on in, you're not going to grow very much. You're going, you're going to be a dwarf.' I just kept hoping year after year that science would find a way. I just kept going to doctors, hoping against hope."

From the time he was 6 until he was 14, little Harold Riley went off to school, attended classes, played games, heard himself called Shorty, Shrimp, Pee-Wee, Little-Bit, a variety of nicknames born of his short stature. He says now, "I'm used to it, but all the same I wish I was like the other guys. I just don't like being different. It makes a fellow feel he doesn't quite belong, that he's not as good. I try not to think about it."

Three years ago the Rileys were introduced to a Dr. West, again at Great Lakes Naval, who explained to them that a human growth hormone had been isolated in 1956, that there were only very small amounts of it. He said he had a friend who worked for the government at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. He offered to write his friend, Dr. Barter, on behalf of Harold Riley.

"I can't tell you," says Mrs. Riley, "how happy we were when we got a letter from Dr. Barter, saying he would see Harold. I had previously heard about the hormone. In fact, the Navy contacted a doctor in Chicago who said he'd try and get us some, but he couldn't. So when that letter came from Bethesda, we were overjoyed.

"A year ago this past January, Harold started getting HGH treatments. He was 48 inches tall. He's now 53. In two years he's gone from size 8 to size 12 in clothing. But several months ago they ran out of hormone, and Harold stopped growing.

"If we can just get a steady supply of it, he stands a very good chance of growing another 8, 10, maybe

Continued on page 6

12 inches. Whenever I get a supply from the agency, I give him the shot myself. I give him one cc. a day right in the fanny. I think I only have enough left for another 24 days.

"Harold is so close to making 5 feet, I just know he will. I know that somehow, some way we're going to get enough growth hormone for him. We've just got to. There's nothing I wouldn't do to normalize his life."

The need for HGH is so acute that scientists everywhere are trying to find some way to synthesize it. The substance is an extremely complex protein, but in recent years Dr. Li and his team at the University of California have succeeded in determining the precise chain of amino acids which go to make it up. If they can re-create its exact structure in the laboratory—as yet an unrealized task—drug manufacturers will be able to produce the hormone, and thousands of dwarfed children will have a chance for a normal life.

Another possibility lies in a newly discovered hormone produced by pregnant women. This placental hormone, discovered by Dr. John Josinovich, an obstetrician at Boston Lying-In Hospital, causes animals that have no growth hormones of their own to grow.

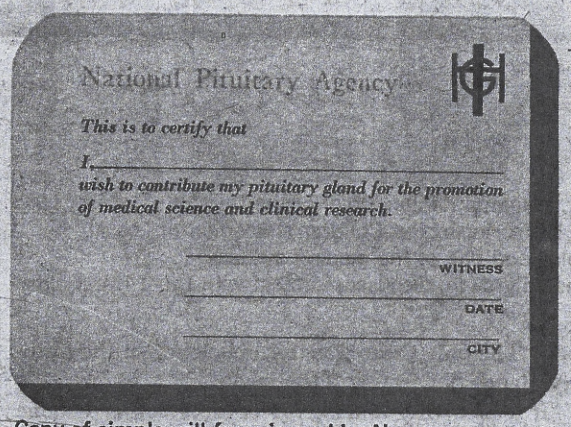
Dr. Melvin Grumbach of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital said at this year's meeting of the American Medical Association that the placenta, which is the structure by which the human embryo is attached to the wall of the uterus; the afterbirth—manufactures about 1,000 times more of its particular growth hormone than does the human pituitary gland.

The first human trials in which dwarfed children are to be given the placental hormone will possibly get under way within a few months. Primarily this hormone stimulates the production of milk by the mother, so that biochemists will have to alter its chemical structure and isolate that portion of the hormone which can be used as a growth stimulator.

If placental hormone works, it will eventually solve the problem of hypopituitary dwarfs. But that day is years away.

In the meantime, medicine knows that human growth hormone is the contemporary answer. And the only source is the pituitary glands of the deceased who have no use for it.

If you can, won't you please help, especially before it's too late, and the bones of some undersized boy or girl have fused, forcing the poor child into a life of hellish dwarfism.



National Pituitary Agency

This is to certify that

I, _____

wish to contribute my pituitary gland for the promotion of medical science and clinical research.

_____ WITNESS

_____ DATE

_____ CITY

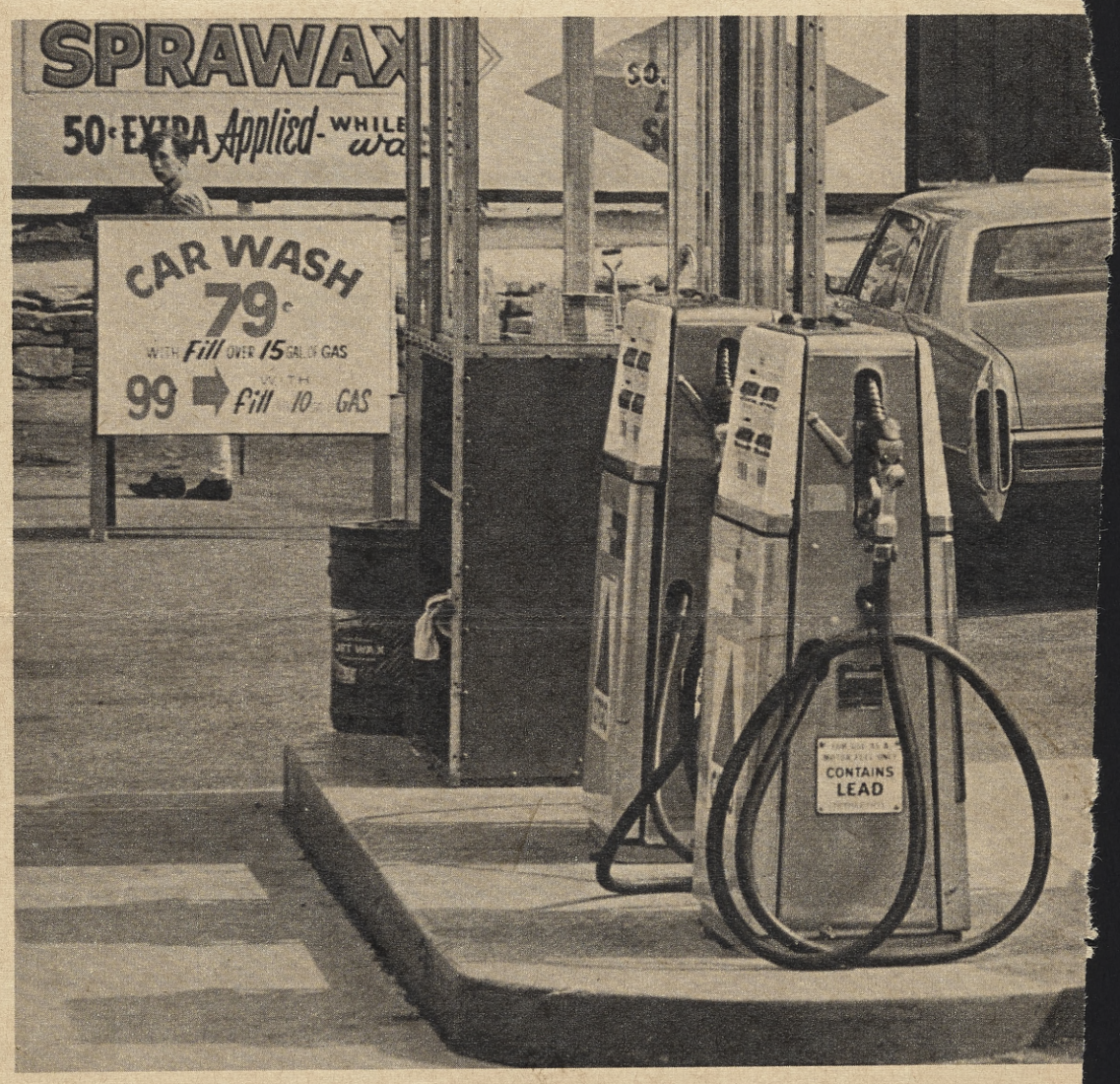
Copy of simple will form issued by National Pituitary Agency. You or your relative can make a contribution to science.

Harold Riley with mother and sister. Hypopituitary dwarfism is not hereditary. Treatment with human growth hormone accelerates growth in hypopituitary dwarfs but not in children without growth hormone deficiency.

The little They're Thinking BIG Now

Four-foot-tall Dwight Raski, 23, of Minneapolis, works as a waiter at the Sparkle Cafe, 1302 E. Franklin St. Born to parents of normal height, he has a younger brother who is 3-feet-6. Another brother and a sister are of normal height, however. Raski said he had no problem finding work suited to him. "I knew I was going to be short all my life and that I would just have to live with it," he said.

Juan Garcia, 28, of St. Paul, works as an attendant at the Highland Car Wash, 1985 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul. Garcia, who stands 4-feet-2, has three brothers and three sisters, all of normal height. He previously worked as a doorman at the LaCasa Coronado, a Mexican restaurant.



Minneapolis Tribune Photos
By AL ROYCE

Four-foot-two Margaret Kokx, 21, of Minneapolis, comes from a family of normal-height parents and six brothers and sisters. Earlier this year she learned to operate a power sewing machine at the Minneapolis Society for the Blind from May Johnson (left), industrial training supervisor. Miss Kokx, who previously did telephone selling, said she pitied herself because of her height until she realized there were others with much more serious handicaps than hers.

UNTIL RECENTLY, midgets and dwarfs—"little people" as they like to be called—have had to depend heavily on show business for employment. Today this is changing. The little people are hard at work demonstrating that, given a chance, they are just as efficient and competent workers as persons of normal size. In the Twin Cities area, as across the country, little people have found their way into a variety of occupations, some of which are shown on these pages. Much of the credit for the changing image of little people is due the Little People of America, Inc., an organization founded in 1960 by showman Billy Barty, himself a little person. At monthly LPA chapter meetings, members help each other with their problems and encourage themselves to "Think Big," the group's apt motto.

1967

Courage Helps Solve Problems For Midgets In World

By Dorothy Pitman

SIMCOE — Think big is the motto of the Little People's Association whose 800 members are midgets from all over Canada and the United States.

Edna Bahula of 1 Campbell Street in Simcoe is proof in miniature of the courage, resourcefulness and energy of midgets in their constant effort to live normal lives in a land designed entirely for people twice their size.

Edna is a receptionist-bookkeeper at Inter - Motive Industry Limited, Simcoe. She is just three feet, 9 inches tall and her weight varies from 75 to 85 lbs.

With a size one shoe Edna would have had no trouble slipping her tiny foot into the fabled "glass slipper." Her voice is clear and strong. She has a ready laugh, a friendly open personality; and bustles around with twice the speed of most of us of normal height.

She ice skates, rides a standard bicycle, roller skates and loves swimming and dancing.

So it was no surprise to those who knew her well to find that she had boarded a jet at Toronto International Airport and had taken off for California. She arrived all alone amid throngs of people of normal height at Los Angeles International Airport.

From there Edna went by cab to the land of Lilliput, at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Hollywood where 400 LPA members from all age groups staged the 1967 national convention.

Among hundreds of tiny folk it was the hotel staff who felt like great, awkward, but thoroughly delighted Gullivers.

The annual conventions of the LPA give midgets like Edna a chance to feel like normal folk and to discuss new advances to help them to live normal lives.

Edna brought home several ingenious devices both light in weight and easy to use, designed by the little people themselves to extend their arms to normal lengths. They all appeared to be modern ball point pens but Edna quickly illustrated how they extended 2½ feet at the flick of a finger, creating batons of light-weight metal.

On the ends of these batons were small hooks which enabled the tiny folk to shop in the self-serve super-markets without aid, pens to enable them to reach and write at the height of a normal person and a similar device enabling them to reach the dial on a wall phone.

One of the members of LPA adapted the foot pedals, steering, and seat of a regular car to fit his own diminutive size and now has more orders than he dreamed possible and an enterprising business converting cars for fellow members.

Clothing and shoe sources are one of the boons of convention gatherings too. Manufacturers who cater to the tiny people are brought to the attention of the members so they are able to buy shoes and clothing without special custom orders.

But the greatest benefit of all says Edna, is the realization and awareness that there are so many professional and occupational fields of work open to midgets — areas in which they fit as well as normal adults.

The eldest midgets attending this year's convention was an 82-year-old woman who still held her position as a proof-reader.

Lee Kitchens, president of LPA is a graduate engineer and manager of a branch of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

National treasurer of the little people, Ronald Shealy of North Carolina, has a bachelor of science in business administration. He was also a major in accounting and religion.

A public school speech and hearing therapist; a teacher, a controller for a merchandise chain, an inventory control supervisor, a highway commissioner, a chemist, a computer operator, an aero engine mechanic and an insurance agent are a few of the positions held by midgets at the convention.

Edna says: "The midgets feel that they have proof positive that providing they can find a situation that does not involve their small stature directly — such as that of a policeman — they are able to carry on in a very normal manner and they make every effort toward this end in any of the fields they enter.

"I wouldn't want to be anything but small now," she added.

Edna is happy with her minimal size and has no desire to change. She says when this question is posed to convention delegates only a minority wished to cast aside their Tom Thumb heights and to join the mass.

Edna feels that "being so different" makes one quite special in a number of ways. The best of these being that "the children all love you so because you have a kinship with them." The grass and the trees are just the same height for you as for them.

She then told how a fellow midget who became a kindergarten teacher had only one special problem. The children always asked her if she would come and play with them!

Edna wishes she had joined the Little Peoples' Association years ago and has now pledged herself to spreading it throughout Canada to bring fun and interest, encouragement and many friends to all midgets everywhere.

TV performer and midget comedian Billy Barty introduced Edna to LPA in 1961. Most of us can remember when Billy used to appear with the late Spike Jones as the harmonica-playing comic end-man.

Canadian born Art Linkletter announced the first LPA convention in February 1957 on his own show and Barty was elected the first president.

Only 21 midgets representing 9 states attended. Ten years later at the 1967 convention from which Edna has just returned there were over 400 present, including 14 Canadian members.

Edna's life story is similar to all her fellow conventioners but much fuller than most. She was a tiny, two-pound baby at birth.

Until she was past kindergarten she was unaware that her growth would stop short of normal height. She was about the same size as many other children at this age but by the time she was eight years old her parents had become aware that she was not growing normally, although she took part in every sport and was healthy in every way.

Her worried parents took her to several doctors and hospitals in a fruitless search for a miracle to start her normal growth pattern.

By the time Edna had reached her teen years her normal brothers and sisters had far outstripped her in height and her parents had resigned themselves to the fact that they had a miniature daughter.

Having accepted this fact, they simply stopped being concerned and simply went on living a happy family life together.

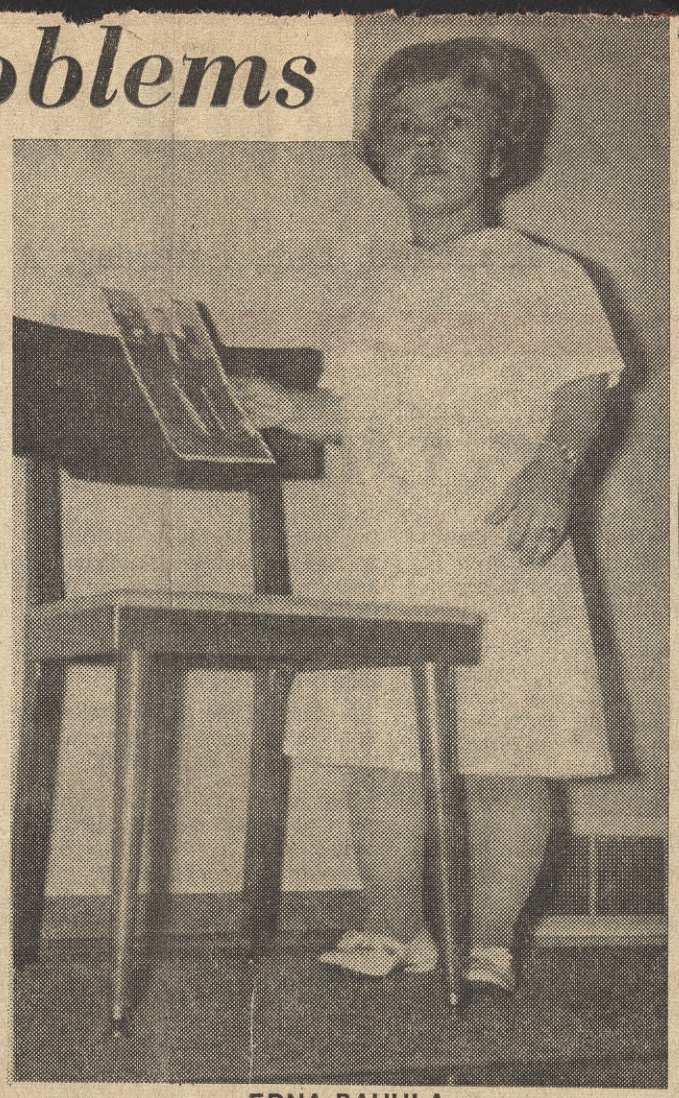
Edna always made up in spark what she lacked in height. She enjoyed two years at business college before accepting her present position as receptionist - bookkeeper.

At the LPA convention she gave her friends gifts of ball-point pens with her name imprinted on them. These were an example of the products of her employer.

At present Edna is undecided as to whether or not to move to California permanently. She feels life might be more meaningful there for her as there are so many more little people like herself around Los Angeles.

But whatever she decides everyone agrees that every inch of little Edna Bahula of Simcoe lives up to the inspirational motto of the Little People's Association:

Think Big.



EDNA BAHULA
It's a Big World.